

**Minutes of University Council**  
**2:30 p.m., Thursday, January 24, 2008**  
**Neatby-Timlin Theatre**

*Attendance: See Appendix A.*

1. Opening Remarks

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m., and declared the meeting properly constituted with respect to quorum.

Condolences were expressed by Professor Darwin Anderson on behalf of Council to family and colleagues of Dr. Donald Rennie, Professor Emeritus of Soil Science 1952-1989. Dr. Rennie was Dean of the College when he retired. He passed away December 23, 2007.

Condolences were also expressed for Professor Emeritus Dr. A. K. Chakravarti, Department of Geography (1965-1994). Dr. Chakravarti passed away December 1, 2007. Professor Dirk de Boer, Head, Department of Geography presented the tribute.

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

The Chair reminded members of Council that nominations for Chair of Council close on Monday January 28, and encouraged members of Council to consider letting their names stand or nominating individuals for this position.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The following changes were proposed for the agenda: that item 3.1 be dealt with as Business Arising from the minutes, and thus renumbered 4.1; and that the Report of the Acting Provost be moved to become item 9.

KALRA/HARRISON : That the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

3. Minutes of the meeting of December 20, 2007

A member of Council rose to request that the President's response to his question about the process for selection of Provost be reflected under Item 5 of the minutes of the last meeting; another member asked that the President's offer to report back to Council about his evaluation of the results of the strike be also recorded in the minutes. There was a suggestion from another member that more detail be given in Council minutes about the tenor of discussions generally.

The Chair also indicated that the revised minutes should include a minor word insertion at Item 8.1, which should read "Changes to Council Bylaws Part *One*, III, 3(h) & (i)."

Given the need to prepare draft wording for the two items raised by Council members, the Chair suggested that the Secretary consult her notes with respect to the matters raised and that revised minutes from the December meeting be brought back to the February meeting of Council for approval.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1 Disposition of motions from Biology Department regarding availability of the printed Calendar

The Chair reported that this matter was discussed at Coordinating Committee and has been referred to the Academic Programs Committee, with a request that APC report by the end of the current term.

There was a question about whether this timing would be sufficient to allow a printed Calendar to be available for the spring advising season. In response, Associate Dean Alison Renny of the Edwards School of Business indicated that a subcommittee of Associate Deans of Undergraduate Colleges met recently with the Registrar and other representatives of Student and Enrolment Services Division, and that a commitment has been made to prepare a limited-print document extract of the University calendar for advising purposes.

5. Report of the President

In addition to his written report, the President commented verbally on discussions that have taken place recently with the new government, including Minister of Advanced Education Rob Norris, Deputy Minister Wynne Young, and Reg Urbanoski, the Director responsible for universities in the Ministry. The conversation was careful and comprehensive, and focused on the expectations of the Province and of the University in matters of funding and tuition.

Vice President Florizone drew members' attention to a sentence in the third paragraph on p. 7 of the President's Report and indicated that the sentence should read "the University's priorities including those in the Operations Forecast," since the discussions with the province are broad-ranging and include not only items in the Operations Forecast but also concerns raised by the Province, and matters of capital funding which are not part of the Operations Forecast.

6. Student Societies

6.1 Report from the USSU

Nicole Kenny reported on behalf of the USSU. In addition to these items which were included in her report, she reported on work she has been doing on coordinating sustainability initiatives, including a recent conference which stressed the importance of universities' leadership and participation in sustainability. A member of Council commended the USSU for its visit to distance and off-campus students in northern Saskatchewan.

## 6.2 Report from the GSA

Muyiwa Adaramola reported that he has been ratified as the new GSA Vice-President Academic following the recent resignation of the previous Vice-President Academic. He noted that elections for next year's GSA elections will be held in March. He also reported that the U-PASS referendum which was held in November/December was defeated; the question will likely be revisited early in 2009.

Mr. Adaramola then commented on the recent decision of the University Administration to compensate students for inconveniences suffered during the recent strike. He and other representatives of the graduate students have met and discussed this with the University's administration, and although they feel the compensation is a gesture only and does not fully compensate students, they are happy with the gesture and feel that the offer is a positive step.

## 7. Bylaws Committee Report

John Rigby presented the report for the Bylaws Committee.

### 7.1 Change to Council Regulations on Academic Dishonesty

RIGBY/CARTER: That Council approve insertion of a new clause in Section 4 of the Council Regulations on Academic Dishonesty, as follows:

*“(e) When the alleged misconduct involves academic work supported by external funds, and if the student has been deemed guilty of misconduct after all avenues of appeal under these regulations have been exhausted, then information regarding the final outcome of the case may be provided by the Dean of the College in which the student is registered to the external agency responsible for providing the said external funds as required by the agency's requirements for disclosure.”*

CARRIED

A member of Council asked when this would take effect; Professors Rigby and Ziola clarified that this obligation already exists, and that the intent of the proposed change is to alert students and colleges of this provision in the University's contracts with granting agencies.

There was a question about why the paragraph is worded permissively rather than as a requirement to report; this is because the clause is written broadly to include external funding agencies in general; at present only the University's agreement with Tri-Council funding agencies require this disclosure.

## 8. Nominations Committee Report

Professor Steven Richardson presented the report for the Nominations Committee.

### 8.1 Appointment of Sessional Lecturer to the Planning and Priorities Committee

It was noted that sessional lecturers serve a one-year term.

RICHARDSON/CHILIBECK: That Council approve the nomination of Will Buschert, Department of Philosophy and Department of Political Studies, as the sessional lecture representative on the Planning & Priorities Committee, to June 30, 2008.

CARRIED

### 8.2 Search Committee for Dean of Pharmacy and Nutrition

RICHARDSON/CHILIBECK: That Council approve the nomination of Jim Thornhill, Associate Dean, Research & Graduate Studies, College of Medicine, as the General Academic Assembly representative on the Search Committee for the Dean of Pharmacy and Nutrition.

CARRIED

## 9. Report of the Acting Provost

The Provost reported on the progress of the development of the Second Integrated Plan, including the work of the College Plans Review Committee in reviewing Unit plans, the results of the campus-wide survey, and input from the USSU. He indicated he expects to see a draft of the plan around March and to bring a draft to Council at a special meeting of Council in April.

The Provost then provided an introduction to Council's consideration of the Operations Forecast 2008-09, commenting on the importance and purpose of the document as well as the process for its development and the parties (including government, the U of R, the Planning & Priorities Committee, and the Board of Governors) that were consulted in its development. He particularly drew Council members' attention to the additional \$2M which appears in the Operations Forecast for support of the Academic Priorities Fund.

The Provost then called upon Vice President Florizone, who characterized the Operations Forecast as an exercise in identifying and mitigating risk and in exercising good governance. The Forecast is both the institution's annual request to government and an update of the multi-year budget; it is very much focused on the operating fund and complements other conversations with government and activity associated with the University's capital planning. Dr. Florizone explained the way that institutional budgeting plays out within the University's tricameral governance structure and its administration: Council has input and the Board has approval; the administrative responsibility, through the Provost, is strategic--to ensure that the

budget is aligned with the priorities and work of the University—and operational. A major risk is enrolment, which drives both tuition revenue and the size of the government grant. Salary assumptions create a second area of risk; and investment returns a third. These uncertainties feed the expectations of the multi-year budget.

Vice President Florizone then invited Jim Spinney, Director of Budget Planning, to provide more detail about the Operations Forecast and how it relates to the overall budgeting process, including the multi-year budget framework. Mr. Spinney led Council members through an explanation of the Operations Forecast as it pertains to the Operating Grant, to the Annual Capital Allowance, and to Investments. He noted the need for a clear tuition policy from the new government and for recognition by government of the operating costs associated with new buildings and facilities. The Operations Forecast and related documents are posted on the Integrated Planning Office's website under Budget Planning.

#### 10. Planning and Priorities Committee Report

John Rigby presented the report for information as Chair of the Committee.

##### 10.1 2008-09 Operations Forecast

Professor Rigby described the involvement of his committee in the development of the Operations Forecast, and the Planning and Priorities Committee's response to the document, including consultations with provincial government officials in both the previous and current governments. He stressed the importance of the Operations Forecast in allowing and encouraging change on the campus, and commended it to members of Council.

The Chair invited questions of either the administration or the Chair of Planning and Priorities.

There was a fulsome discussion of the document, and several issues were raised, including the need to address solutions to the student housing crisis; whether the level of exposure for the operating reserve is acceptable given the current state of markets; the need to build in inflationary costs for non-salary expenses incurred in departments; the desirability of including sustainability investments in the capital allowance; the adequacy of the capital allowance for replacement of outdated equipment and supplies in Colleges; and the wisdom generally of 'lowballing' the University's needs and thereby creating a culture of low expectations.

#### 11. Question Period

No further questions.

#### 12. Other Business

No items of other business were raised.

13. Adjournment and Next meeting

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m. The next meeting is at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, February 28, 2008 in Neatby-Timlin Theatre.