

Minutes of University Council
2:30 p.m., Thursday, March 15, 2007
Neatby-Timlin Theatre (Room 241) Arts Building

Attendance: See Appendix A.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. and declared that quorum had been achieved.

1. Opening Remarks

Condolences were expressed on behalf of Council to colleagues and family of Professor Jerry Huff, who passed away on Saturday, March 3, 2007. Professor Huff began teaching in the department of Electrical Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan on August 1, 1966. Professor Huff's career ended prematurely when he left the college on August 21, 2000 due to his illness. The tribute was delivered by Professor Bob Gander, Acting Dean, College of Engineering.

Condolences were also expressed on behalf of Council to colleagues and family of Dr. Donald Zuck, Professor Emeritus, who passed away on February 23, 2007. In 1965 Dr. Zuck accepted a position as Associate Professor in the College of Pharmacy at the U of S. He retired in 1986. The tribute was delivered by Professor Gorecki, Dean, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition.

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

2. Adoption of the Agenda

KALRA/RIGBY: To adopt the agenda as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Minutes of the meeting of February 22, 2007

GANDER/MacDONALD: To adopt the minutes of February 22, 2007 as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

5. Report of the President

The President reported that the past few weeks have involved a great deal of activity but very few outcomes or developments. The provincial budget is forthcoming on March 22; recent discussions with the province have been intense as we enter the second year of what is informally referred to as a tuition freeze. The University's position last year was that the province needed to fund the University in a way that would allow the Board

of Governors to recommend no increase to tuition, and this will continue to be our position. The University will be looking for financial support in the provincial budget that comes close to meeting the needs outlined in the Operations Forecast which was shared with Council earlier this year. The federal budget will be coming down on March 19, and the University hopes to see early signals with respect to funding for major science projects as well as significant transfer payments to the provinces relating to post secondary education.

The President also noted that April 3 marks the birthdate of the University, the 100th anniversary of the signing of the original University of Saskatchewan Act. There will be events all that day to mark the occasion, and he urged members of the University to plan to attend as many as possible. Further information can be found at www.usask.ca/100.

6. Report of the Provost

Vice Provost Jim Germida presented the report of the Provost in Dr. Atkinson's absence, commending members of Council to the written report and particularly to the item regarding the School of Public Health.

7. Student Society Reports

7.1 USSU Report

Brad Flavell delivered the report as Academic Vice President of the USSU, noting that his report is similar to the President's in that there has been a great deal of activity but there are not a lot of developments to report. Elections for USSU Executive positions are in progress, with a healthy slate of candidates for each position. There are forums scheduled for all candidates. Another work in progress is the budget; the Operations and Finance Board will be bringing a proposed budget to University Students' Council for discussion this evening. In general terms, the goal of the current executive is to work to ensure that the current Executive leaves the Union in a stronger position than when it started its term.

Finally, Mr. Flavell noted that the USSU would be celebrating the University's birthday at Louis' on April 3, including the launch of a book that the USSU has published about its history.

7.2 GSA Report

Members of Council were commended by the Chair to the written report of the GSA which was circulated with the agenda materials.

8. Presentation by George Lafond on Aboriginal Achievement Model

George Lafond, Special Advisor on Aboriginal Initiatives, introduced his report by observing that it is exactly four years ago today that a similar meeting was convened in the College of Education to determine a mandate and focus for his office. His presentation highlighted the University's strategic approach to Aboriginal recruitment and retention, what has been achieved, and what challenges

are ahead. The challenges include demographic changes, cohort and participation rates of students in post-secondary education, workforce challenges, and civil society challenges. Mr. Lafond noted that with a population of roughly 100,000 First Nations people in Saskatchewan (with an average age of 18), only 5,000 of the roughly 20,000 First Nations 18-24-year-olds are in any kind of post-secondary education. He spoke of the need for consensus around investment and change among institutions, government, Aboriginal community and the corporate sector. He presented the mandate of his office as coordination and prioritization among five different elements in the conceptual framework for Aboriginal activities: student affairs, academic programming, cultural activities, research, and community outreach. The decision was made four years ago that the first priority would be given to student affairs programming with the goal of recruiting and retaining Aboriginal students. Key initiatives in realizing this priority included the Aboriginal First-Year Program, the Aboriginal Student Support Centre, Math and Science Enrichment, and the Aboriginal Achievement Model. Over the next year and beyond, Mr. Lafond called for continued support to the strategies and initiatives that are in place to support students, as well as new initiatives to further the other four elements of the conceptual framework, particularly in the areas of academic programming and research.

Questions focused on the need to work with the provincial department of education, tribal councils, Indian Affairs and others on increasing graduation rates from high school; and the size and distribution of the cohort of our Aboriginal students.

A copy of the presentation was circulated at the door and is available from the Office of the University Secretary.

Following the presentation the President acknowledged the enormous contribution that George Lafond has made to this office and his outstanding work over the past four years.

9. Report of the International Activities Committee

Professor Claire Card presented the report of the International Activities Committee as Committee Chair, focusing on current activities, the current state of enrolment and recruitment activities, challenges surrounding effective recruitment of international students, international partnership, study abroad opportunities, international student life and curriculum, research activity internationally, barriers to internationalization, and strategic initiatives to overcome those barriers.

Questions focussed on the source of the information being used by the Committee, the designation of certain countries as being Tier 1 and Tier 2, the report's identification of the primary areas of interest as Commerce and Engineering, and the lack of information in the report about graduate level activities and the need for future reports to include such information.

10. Academic Programs Committee

Professor Trever Crowe presented this report as Committee Chair.

10.1 Approval of Arts and Science Minor in Crime, Law and Justice Studies

There was one question about consultation in the Department of Psychology, which has a course in criminal behaviour and a Chair in Forensic Psychology, resources which would be relevant to this program. This observation was accepted as advice by the Chair of the Committee.

11. Other Business

11.1 Results of Council Election

This item was received for information. There was a question about the method of determining which nominees were assigned to one-two-and three-year terms; this determination was made by lot on the basis of Bylaw II.7 and precedent.

12. Question Period

A member asked about the rationale for the University's home page to include a permanent link to Human Resources in the "In the News" section. This section is for announcements and University news that is continually changing, however, the Human Resources link has now been there for two months. The same member asked a question about the reason for e-mail announcements directed to faculty by administrative units (such as the Learning Centre, Recruitment, and the University Secretary) being cleared through and posted by the Human Resources Division. The President indicated that these questions would be taken back for consideration and responses from the appropriate offices.

13. Next meeting

The next Council meeting is at 2:30 p.m., **Thursday, April 19, 2007** in Neatby-Timlin Theatre.