

Minutes of University Council
2:30 p.m., Thursday, March 20, 2008
Neatby-Timlin Theatre

Attendance: See Appendix A.

1. Opening Remarks

Condolences were expressed on behalf of Council by Professor Gary Entwistle, who paid tribute to his former colleague in the Edwards School of Business, Dr. W. Harold Silvester. Dr. Silvester joined the Department of Accounting in 1974 and retired in 1994. He passed away on January 31, 2008.

Dr. Grant Isaac, Dean, Edwards School of Business presented a memorial tribute for Dean Emeritus Tommy McLeod. In 1952 Dr. McLeod accepted the position as Dean of the then College of Commerce, and in 1964 became Dean of Arts and Vice Principal of the newly established University of Regina. He passed away on January 1, 2008.

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

The Chair provided an update on the nominations for College representatives and members at large. The Colleges of Arts and Science and Engineering will have elections for faculty representatives. A second call for nominations for members at large resulted in 18 nominations for 12 vacancies, and therefore an election will be held.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

CARTER/REEVES: That the agenda be adopted as circulated. CARRIED

3. Minutes of the meeting of February 28, 2008

RENNY/CLARKE: That the minutes of the meeting of February 28, 2008 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. Report of the President

In addition to his written report, President MacKinnon commented on the Provincial Budget for 2008-09. Overall, the University is pleased with the 8% increase in the provincial operating grant for 2008-09. The increase meets the needs of the University as outlined in the Operations Forecast, permits tuition to be maintained at 2004-05 levels, and recognizes and rewards the University's planning activities. The President expressed appreciation for the work of Council which gained the confidence of the Province and its contribution to the Academic Priorities Fund. This is unusual and speaks of confidence in the University and its planning activities.

The provincial grant will allow the University to maintain tuition at 2004/05 levels, but also recognizes the authority of the Board of Governors on matters related to tuition. The budget is positive and signals from the Province its openness to an ongoing conversation about the evolution of tuition policy, how tuition is managed, and student financial assistance. This follows on the University's suggestion for a matching program for student financial aid related to bursaries and scholarships. The University will continue to urge and support this program to the Province.

The President invited questions on his written report and any other matters. Concern was expressed regarding residential housing for students. The President stated both students and the University are concerned regarding the housing vacancy rate, which is 1% or less. The University has various initiatives underway to increase the housing supply for students. One of these is an application to Saskatchewan Housing to construct town house residences within the next 12-18 months.

6. Report of the Acting Provost

Acting Provost Barber noted his written report refers to the SEEQ project and implementation of the SEEQ instrument to provide feedback on teaching. The use of SEEQ was approved by Council a year ago and is an example of Council's governance role in approving an initiative which is implemented across academic units and requires the engagement of many areas. SEEQ will gradually become available across the University, but its use is not mandated.

Dr. Barber spoke briefly on the special meeting of University Council April 3, 2008, to consider the University's draft Second Integrated Plan 2008/09 – 2011/12. He encouraged members of Council to provide feedback on the draft Integrated Plan through the Integrated Planning website.

7. Student Society Reports

7.1 Report from the USSU

President James Pepler noted Aboriginal Awareness week is underway and student elections for the USSU are pending. The USSU hosted a Day of Action in support of student housing; many student leaders attended the Board of Governors Public Accountability meeting. DISOrientation is under review. Place Riel renovations

are being considered with student surveys completed on the aesthetics of the project. Mr. Pepler voiced his concern that actions be put in place to mitigate the spike in tuition which is likely if the Province's tuition management program, which has kept tuition at 2004/05 levels, does not continue. Mr. Pepler stated his disappointment that the 2008-09 Provincial Budget did not include a monetary commitment in support of student housing.

7.2 Report from the GSA

There was no representative from the GSA in attendance and therefore no report.

8. Bylaws Committee Report

8.1 Change to Terms of Reference of Instructional Development Committee; Dissolution of Outreach and Public Service Committee, and changes to Terms of Reference of other Council Committees

Dr. Ziola corrected the Ex Officio membership for the new Teaching and Learning Committee to read "*The Director of the University Learning Centre*" and amended the terms of reference to include the Director of the Centre for Continuing and Distance Education as an *ex officio* voting member.

ZIOLA/CROWE: That Council approve the change of name, membership and terms of reference of the Instructional Development Committee as amended, effective March 20, 2008.

CARRIED

ZIOLA/CROWE: That Council approve the proposed amendments to Council Bylaws Part II regarding the disestablishment of the Council Committee on Outreach and Public Service and changes to terms of reference of other Council committees.

CARRIED

9. Academic Programs Committee Report

9.1 Termination Policy Procedure

CROWE/WURZER: That Council approve the updated Program Termination Procedure.

Professor Crowe outlined the establishment of Council's Program Termination Procedure, which was approved by Council 1998. In 2001, Council established a subcommittee of Council to administer the procedure. In 2007, Council approved revisions to Council Committees. As a result the Program Termination Subcommittee was disestablished and the Academic Programs Committee charged with making recommendation on program termination to Council and revising Council's program termination procedures. Dr. Crowe explained that many of the

changes are housekeeping changes to make the procedures current, and the intent of the procedures has not changed.

Requests from Council members were made to update Attachment 1: List of Fields of Specializations at the University of Saskatchewan as of January, 2008 to update specializations within the College of Medicine and College of Engineering.

Concern was expressed regarding the use of “consistent low student numbers and/or faculty complements” as a criterion for consideration of program termination. The objection was made specifically in relation to small faculty complements. Program expansion is limited by faculty numbers, and if there is only one faculty instructor, enrollment is limited to the number of students a single faculty member can teach. Under the proposed program termination procedures, these programs are subject to elimination. Consideration of the context for small programs, including the research productivity of faculty members, is important.

A member asked what mechanisms are in place to determine what constitutes “consistent low student numbers” and whether this is consistent low student numbers over several years and whether there is a single body responsible for consistent low student numbers and/or faculty complements. Professor Crowe noted recommendations for consideration of program termination could be initiated for a variety of reasons from Colleges or from the Academic Programs Committee.

The Chair of the Planning and Priorities Committee reminded Council members Council had endorsed the report from the Subcommittee on Viable Enrolments (*Issues and Criteria when Considering Viable Enrolments at the University of Saskatchewan*), and that the report listed the criteria to consider to determine program viability. The report was forwarded to Deans’ Council and PCIP for consideration. The report addresses the issues being raised and perhaps should be revisited.

A member suggested the wording of the first sentence under 1. be changed to:

“Programs may be considered for termination based on the following factors:

Another member suggested that the point “consistent low student numbers and/or faculty complements” be removed as the first two points contain a catalogue of considerations that would trigger program consideration.

A member expressed concern regarding *ad hoc* editing on the floor of Council, and suggested that further comments be provided by members of Council to the Committee Chair, and the motion be withdrawn.

BARBER/KALRA: That the motion to approve the updated Program Termination Procedure be withdrawn, and the procedures referred to the Academic Programs Committee for further consideration.

CARRIED

9.2 Changes to Agriculture Diploma Program

CROWE/WURZER: That Council approve revisions to the Diploma in Agriculture program to establish the Diploma in Agribusiness and the Diploma in Agronomy, and to delete the specializations in General Agriculture and Animal Science.

CARRIED

Professor Crowe presented the report as Chair, noting that students in the new diploma programs would complete 60 cu of degree-level classes to satisfy diploma requirements, with these classes being transferable to degree programs. Acting Dean Graham Scoles commented the changes are to address low enrolment in the program and attract new students through ability to ladder into a degree programs.

10. Nominations Committee Report

10.1 Appointments to Review Committees for Dean of Law, Arts and Science and Associate Vice-President (Human Resources)

POST/RICHARDSON: That Council approve the nomination of Grant Isaac, Dean, N. Murray Edwards School of Business, as the General Academic Assembly representative on the Review Committee for the Dean of Law.

CARRIED

POST/RICHARDSON: That Council approve the nomination of Cecilia Reynolds, Dean, College of Education, as the General Academic Assembly representative on the Review Committee for Dean of Arts & Science.

CARRIED

POST/RICHARDSON: That Council approve the nomination of Rose Olfert, Department of Bioresource Policy, Business and Economics, College of Agriculture & Bioresources, as the General Academic Assembly representative on the Review Committee for the Associate Vice-President (Human Resources).

CARRIED

10.2 Appointment of Chair of International Activities Committee

POST/RICHARDSON: That Council approve the nomination of Dwayne Brenna as Chair of the International Activities Committee to June 30, 2008.

CARRIED

10.3 Nominations for Senate Roundtable on Outreach and Engagement

It was pointed out that the motion circulated with the agenda materials should refer to "GAA representatives" rather than "Council representatives."

POST/RICHARDSON: That Council approve the following nominations as GAA representatives on the Senate Roundtable on Outreach and Engagement:

Francois Messier, Biology – appointment to June 30, 2009

Fran Walley, Soil Science – appointment to June 30, 2010

Bob Bors, Plant Sciences – appointment to June 30, 2010

Joe Stookey, Large Animal Clinical Sciences – appointment to June 30, 2011

CARRIED

11. Planning and Priorities Committee Report

11.1 College Plans Review Committee Report on Administrative Units

RIGBY/KALRA: That Council accept the College Plans Review Committee reports of the Administrative Unit Plans for the 2008-12 planning cycle, as submitted March 20, 2008.

CARRIED

Professor Rigby outlined the sections of the report for Council's benefit, clarifying that section 3.1, "Progress from 2003/04 to 2006/07 Plan" is an objective reflection of progress made as reported in the plans, and does not represent an evaluative judgment by CPRC. The Chair then called for questions and comments from the floor.

A member asked whether it would be more appropriate to receive, rather than accept, the reports. Professor Rigby pointed out that the distinctions elaborated by Kerr and King do not permit a report which is received to be debated. As the word "accept" has a lay meaning, the Chair requested the definition employed by Kerr and King, whose procedures Council follows, be included for reference in the minutes.¹

There were requests for clarification regarding section 3.1, "Progress from 2003/04 to 2006/07 Plan," with comments that many of the initiatives reported as having been achieved were ongoing initiatives which will continue through the next planning cycle. Further questions on whether CPRC considered the statistical viability of unit's assessment of their program and whether the unit's plan was based upon sound, scholarly information were asked. Professor Rigby noted continuing to evaluate progress against a wide spectrum of activities is an important component of the planning cycle, but noted the committee did not attempt to evaluate unit performance based upon the planning parameters or from an academic perspective, as evaluating administrative unit plans on academic principles would be remiss.

Following questions, Professor Rigby appealed on a point of order to request that Professor Card, as Council Chair, excuse herself as Chair in order to ask any further questions.

¹ According to Kerr and King, a motion to accept is used for a report which contains significant formation, [sic] but no specific recommendations. The report is debatable, but cannot be amended.

Professor Rigby also appealed on another point of order that Professor Card, as Council Chair, vote only in order to break a tied vote.

12. Question Period

No questions were raised.

13. Other Business

There was no other business brought forward.

14. Next meeting: A special meeting to discuss the 2008/09 – 2011/12 draft Integrated Plan will be held at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, April 3, 2008 in Neatby-Timlin Theatre; Council's next regular meeting is at 2:30 pm, Thursday, April 17, 2008 in Neatby-Timlin Theatre.