

Minutes of University Council
2:30 p.m., Thursday, May 17, 2007
Neatby-Timlin Theatre (Room 241) Arts Building

Attendance: See Appendix B.

1. Opening Remarks

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:35pm, declaring the meeting to be properly constituted with respect to quorum.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair noted that item 12.1 should read “Approval of Schools of Public Health and Public Policy.”

KALRA/MACDONALD: To adopt the agenda as amended.

CARRIED

3. Minutes of the meeting of April 19, 2007

ZIOLA/REEVES: To adopt the minutes of April 19, 2007 as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. Report of the President

The President commended his report to members of Council, and reported verbally on two additional items.

The first involves a number of accountability and transparency initiatives recently approved by the Board of Governors. The President noted there has been a great deal of recent discussion around accountability and transparency at universities across the country, and the University already operates with a high degree of transparency in this regard: the President undertakes provincial tours, Council and Senate hold open meetings, initiatives undergo broad consultations, and annual reports by the President, Provost and Vice Presidents are presented to the community. In addition, the following measures will now be undertaken at the Board’s request:

- Following the last meeting of the Board each year, a public accountability meeting will be held. This year the meeting will take place at 11:30 am, in the Goodspeed Theatre on June 22nd, with the Chair and members of the Board present to report on the Board’s activities and to answer questions from the community.
- A digest of Board discussion and decision items will be published after each Board meeting;

- An opportunity will be provided at each Board meeting for a standing agenda item to hear representations from individuals on behalf of stakeholders.

The second item to report to Council relates to the University's Operating Budget which was approved by the Board at its last meeting. The 2007-08 Operating Budget is a balanced budget, which restores reserves to a level the Board is comfortable with, eliminates the structural deficit, and sets tuition at the same level as last year in response to the funding arrangements made by the government.

6. Report of the Provost

The Provost noted his written report was before Council and invited questions. There being none, the Provost invited Associate Vice President Laura Kennedy to present an overview of the year-end balances for 2006-07, with reference to the major cost savings and overruns for the year. The Provost then summarized the highlights of the 2007-08 Operating Budget, indicating this budget is the last budget year of the current multi-year budget. Overall, the University is on a fairly solid financial footing as the next planning cycle begins. Tuition revenues are estimated to remain stable for the next planning cycle. Salaries will be somewhat higher than originally projected, but this will be offset by higher than anticipated tuition revenue. As in previous years, the Province has provided a capital grant which was increased this year from \$14.4 million to approximately \$17.0 million. Critical capital issues on campus are the campus core revitalization, and renewal and replacement for deferred maintenance. Faculty start-up grants have taxed the budget, and the Capital Equipment Start-up Budget has been increased from \$700,000 to \$1.0 million. Enrolment pressure remains an ongoing financial concern.

7. Student Society Reports

7.1 USSU Report

Josie Steeves, new Vice President Academic of the USSU, presented the report to Council. For the last few weeks, the new Executive has been involved in orientation activities and bridge building with students, faculty and the administration. The Infrastructure Fee and U-PASS are important items that will remain before the Executive.

7.2 GSA Report

8. Bylaws Committee

8.1 Revisions to Terms of Reference for Academic Programs, Budget, Planning, and Nominations Committees

ZIOLA/RIGBY: That the attached amendments be made to the Council Bylaws, effective July 1, 2007.

CARRIED

One member expressed concern that this change means there will be five fewer people on Council committees overall. Professor Ziola responded that this had been considered and as a result, the Planning and Priorities Committee and the Academic Programs Committee had each been increased by two members.

9. Scholarship and Awards Committee

9.1 Approval of Three Award Policies

RIGBY/STILL: That Council approve the amended award policy: Entrance Awards with Special Terms – Exception to the Entrance Award Limit.

CARRIED

RIGBY/STILL: That Council approve the award policy: Application of Financial Need Values in Bursary Distribution.

CARRIED

RIGBY/STILL: That Council approve the award policy: Huskie Athletic Awards-- Exclusion from Scholarship & Awards Jurisdiction.

CARRIED

9.2 Annual Report of the Scholarships and Awards Committee

RIGBY/STILL: That the report of the Scholarships and Awards Committee be received.

CARRIED

10. Nominations Committee Report

PAIN/KAMINSKYJ: That Council approve the appointments to Committees for the year 2007/2008 as outlined on pages 43 – 46 of the agenda material.

CARRIED

11. Academic Support Committee

11.1 Network Security Policy

PROCTOR/STEELE: That, subject to Board of Governors approval, the Network Security Policy become official policy for the University of Saskatchewan.

CARRIED

One faculty member in attendance commented that occasionally wireless routers are attached to campus networks, particularly in student residences, and asked whether this policy speaks against such uses and the extent to which ITS would enforce the policy. Associate Vice President Rick Bunt confirmed that such usage is one of the reasons for this policy being put into place, but that enforcement would likely be responsive to complaints or abuses of the networks rather than ongoing monitoring to detect such devices.

11.2 Clicker Technology

Professor Proctor presented this report for information. Professor Greer reported there would be a workshop in early June through the Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching Effectiveness to familiarize instructors with use of the technology in the classroom.

12. Planning Committee

Professor Rigby presented the report as Chair of the Committee, and noted the motions before Council represent an enormous amount of work to prepare the University for the approval of Schools. Professor Rigby then addressed some common questions in response to the question of schools in general, including the impact and intent of the schools, safeguards against draining resources from departments and/or colleges, issues of space and budgets, and collegial processes.

12.1 School of Public Policy and School of Public Health

Professor Rigby presented the motion for the School of Public Policy and responded to questions, along with Professor Murray Fulton, about whether positions being created in the schools would be backfilled in departments, and about the number of graduate students in other schools of Public Policy across the country.

RIGBY/CROWE: That Council approve the proposal for a School of Public Policy.
CARRIED

Professor Rigby then introduced the motion for a School of Public Health. Dean Dennis Gorecki of the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition noted the College had provided a letter of support for the school, which had not been included in the agenda materials. (*Appendix B*)

RIGBY/CROWE: That Council approve the proposal for a School of Public Health.
CARRIED

The Provost observed there were a number of people in attendance who have worked on creation of these two new Schools, and on Council's behalf, he thanked them for their hard work and vision as the University embarks upon this new direction.

12.2 Graduate Programs in Vaccinology and Immunotherapeutics

Professor Rigby introduced the motion. A member asked for the number of new graduate students, in contrast to students who might move from other programs, who could be expected on campus as a result of the establishment of these programs. Professor Reeder and Professor Juurlink responded, with Professor Juurlink estimating that as the program becomes well known, we can expect to see approximately 20 new students enrolled in the program who would not otherwise have come to the University

of Saskatchewan. There was also a question about the involvement of research centres such as VIDO, and the extent to which VIDO would be involved in the administration and intellectual property of the graduate programs. Another question focused on whether the budget requested for the program is already part of the approved budget for the School of Public Health.

RIGBY/CROWE: That Council approve MA, MSc and PhD graduate programs in Vaccinology and Immunotherapeutics, effective July 1, 2007.

CARRIED

13. Instructional Development Committee Notice of Motion Regarding Student Evaluation of Instructors/Courses

Professor Bob Tyler presented this notice of motion for information, noting that the Committee's work has been based on the *Framework on Student Evaluation of Teaching* approved by Council in January 2004. He summarized the consultation that has taken place and the research that has been done by the Committee with the support of the Provost's Office, the Integrated Planning Office, Institutional Analysis, and Information Technology Services. He explained the reasons for the Committee having chosen the SEEQ instrument and the lessons learned as a result of the pilot study of SEEQ. He also directed Council's attention to what is *not* being proposed, including release of information and frequency of evaluation.

There were questions about working with departments to interpret results and outcomes, whether data was aggregated for instructors during the pilot, whether the questionnaire is available in a shorter version, the merits of on-line versus paper versions, and the validity of the instrument for on-line courses.

The motion will be brought to the June meeting of Council.

14. Academic Programs Committee

14.1 Procedures for Cross-College Minors

CROWE/RIGBY: That Council approve the proposed procedure for the development and approval of cross-college minors.

CARRIED

14.2 Informational Report from the Academic Programs Committee

Professor Crowe presented the report of the College, including the Committee's approval of the Agriculture and Bioresources minor in Food and Bioproducts Entrepreneurship and a progress report on other programs, including the BA in Prairie Studies, Minor in Entrepreneurship, PhD in Nursing, and graduate programs in Music.

15. Joint Board/Council Committee on Chairs and Professorships

Vice Provost Jim Germida presented the report as Chair of the Committee. A point of order was called on the movers and seconders for the motion as presented; new movers and seconders were requested from the floor.

15.1 Centennial Chair in the Environment

WALLEY/ZIOLA: That Council approve the establishment of the Centennial Chair in the Environment.

CARRIED

15.2 Centennial Chair in Public Policy

ZIOLA/MacKINNON: That Council approve the establishment of the Centennial Chair in Public Policy.

CARRIED

15.3 Centennial Chair in Public Health

GORECKI/RHODES: That Council approve the establishment of the Centennial Chair in Public Health.

CARRIED

15.4 Canadian Pacific Chair in Aboriginal Community Development

ZIOLA/DILLON: That Council approve the establishment of the Canadian Pacific Chair in Aboriginal Community Development.

CARRIED

16. Question Period

There were no questions.

17. Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 4:35pm. The next Council meeting is at 2:30 p.m., **Thursday, June 14, 2007** in Neatby-Timlin Theatre.