The 20th year of our representative Council is a time for reflection on the role of Council within our university’s tri-cameral governance structure. It is my firm belief that academic governance at the University of Saskatchewan has matured over the past 19 years as our institution has become more complex; however, Council has always worked, and continues to work under three major principles:

- First, Council has always enjoyed academic freedom in the past, and we continue to value it;
- Second, Council is a collegial self-governing body and we have responsibilities to govern ourselves accordingly;
- Third, Council is the university’s academic governance body where academic matters are considered and decisions are made.

I am pleased to report on behalf of Council on those decisions and items, which engaged Council from January thru March, and those which will be presented at the upcoming Council meetings on April 16th and May 21st. Council agendas are posted at: [http://www.usask.ca/secretariat/governing-bodies/council/agendas.php](http://www.usask.ca/secretariat/governing-bodies/council/agendas.php)

**UPCOMING APRIL COUNCIL ITEMS**

- College of Education change to direct admission to the B.Ed. program
- Proposal to establish the Fedoruk Nuclear Innovation chair in Radiopharmacy
- Report on Institutional Priorities and establishment of an Enrolment Subcommittee to recommend to Council on the consideration and management of low enrolment programs

In addition, in recognition of Council’s 20th anniversary, Professor Emeritus Stuart Houston will give a presentation titled: *The Honorable Sylvia Fedoruk, Saskatchewan’s Leading Lady*

**UPCOMING MAY COUNCIL ITEMS**

- Approval of nominations and call for nominations from the floor to Council committees and committees mandated by the collective agreement

**ITEMS APPROVED AT THE JANUARY THROUGH MARCH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

**ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

- Graduate Certificate in Social Economy and Co-operatives
- Graduate Certificate in One Health
- Certificate in Practical and Applied Arts
- Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics
- Transfer Credit and Articulation Policy

**BYLAW AMENDMENTS**

- Amendments were made to Part One, section IV.1. “Creation and Composition of Council Committees” to require a one-year break in service after two consecutive terms on a Council committee as a member, and after three years of service as chair

**NOMINATIONS**

- Search committee for Dean of Kinesiology and to the university review committee
OTHER ITEMS

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE
> The international activities committee reported on university partnerships with international institutes, and, in particular, the university's Confucius Institute. The committee recommended to Council that any international agreements, such as those required to establish the Confucius Institute, be submitted in the future to the planning and priorities committee and the international activities committee prior to being signed, and also that the committees review any reports at the time of renewal of the agreement.

REPORT ON UNIVERSITY FINANCES
> A report from the vice-president finance and resources was presented in response to the motion carried unanimously by Council to provide information on:
  - the origin of the previously projected $44.5 M deficit;
  - the present actual deficits as well as future projected deficits,
  - how and why the $44.5 million projected deficit was adjusted to reflect the present and future projected deficits.

CERTIFICATES
> The academic programs committee reported to Council on the establishment of a certificate subcommittee to conduct a review to develop a good understanding of what the university presently has in place for certificate programs and what purposes they serve. The review arises in response to concerns raised at Council about the increase in number of certificate programs and the lack of a standard structure for certificates of proficiency, aside from the requirement to use degree-level classes.

PRESENTATIONS
> The associate vice-president of communications presented on secondary logos and the university marketing campaign.
> The vice-provost teaching and learning presented on Winter Term Enrolment.

Council is the governing body responsible for all things academic, and it relies on the collegial model of academic self-governance to do its business. That means that you, as a member of the General Academic Assembly, have an opportunity to influence the academic direction of the institution, both by electing members of your college to Council, and by considering letting your name stand for election to Council or one of its committees. More information can be found on our web site at www.usask.ca/secretariat/governing-bodies/council/index.php. Questions can be directed to university.secretary@usask.ca.

Council meets once a month from September to June. Meetings are open to all, and we hope you will feel welcome to join us and to watch your Council in action.

Remaining meetings of University Council in the spring term
April 16, 2015
May 21, 2015
June 18, 2015

All meetings are on Thursdays in Neatby-Timlin Theatre, Arts 241, at 2:30 p.m.

On behalf of Council and its committees and of the Council secretariat, I wish all of you a rewarding spring term and look forward to seeing you at Council.

Jay Kalra, Chair, University Council