This year is the 21st year of our representative Council. Academic governance at the University of Saskatchewan has matured 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.

Council opened its first meeting this year with the following acknowledgement: As we gather here today, we acknowledge we are on Treaty Six Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nation and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another. Each and every meeting of Council will acknowledge our Indigenous Peoples and Lands in this way.

I am pleased to report on behalf of Council on those decisions and items, which engaged Council from October thru December. 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)

### ITEMS APPROVED AT THE OCTOBER THROUGH DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETINGS

#### UNIVERSITY COUNCIL BYLAW AMENDMENTS

- Approval of the change to the term of student members elected to Council and appointed to Council committees so that student member terms are from May 1 to April 30 rather than from July 1 to June 30;
- Notice of motion was provide in December for the requirement that all elected Council members be members of the student academic hearing and appeals committee, from which student disciplinary and appeal boards are constituted. It is expected that this bylaw amendment will be approved at the January council meeting.

#### NOMINATIONS

- search committee, provost and vice-president academic; four GAA members: Helen Nichol, Kathleen James-Cavan, Michael Bradley, Gary Entwistle; one senior administrator: Carol Rodgers
- search committee, dean, College of Arts and Science; one senior administrator: Hope Bilinski
- search committee, dean, University Library; one senior administrator: Jack Gray
- search committee, dean, College of Graduate Studies and Research; one senior administrator: Fred Remillard
- review committee, vice-provost faculty relations; one GAA member due to a resignation: Margaret Kovach
- research, scholarly and artistic work committee: one GAA member: Lorraine Holtslander; and a new chair due to a resignation: Rainer Dick
- policy oversight committee: two Council members: Roy Dobson, Allison Muri

#### NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- Cross-departmental Ph.D. in the College of Education;
NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS continued

- Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm. D.) program to replace the Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy (BSP) program;
- new certificates in the College of Education: a post-degree certificate in Career and Guidance Studies and a post-degree certificate in English as an Additional Language Education.

DEPARTMENT NAME CHANGES

- Department of Civil and Geological Engineering renamed the Department of Civil, Geological, and Environmental Engineering;
- Department of Bioresource Policy, Business and Economics renamed the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics.

COUNCIL ITEMS IN THE NEW YEAR

UNIVERSITY VISION, MISSION AND VALUES STATEMENT

- At the November and December Council meetings, President Stoicheff spoke to Council about the process for development of a new university vision, mission and values statement. Updates and discussion of this important undertaking will continue to be an important item before Council in the New Year.

INDIGENOUS CONTENT IN THE CURRICULUM

- The USSU has approved a motion calling on the university to commit to implementing Indigenous content into the curriculum of every University of Saskatchewan college and degree. The motion was supported in principle by the planning and priorities committee and reported to Council in December. Notwithstanding the many considerations that would need to occur to make the motion a reality, the spirit of the USSU motion is supported as a significant step forward in realizing the university’s strategic Aboriginal initiative. Ongoing discussion of how this might occur is anticipated to engage Council in the months ahead.

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 winter term**

January 21, 2016
February 25, 2016
March 17, 2016

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 happy holiday season and all the best in the New Year.

[Signature]

Jay Kalra, Chair, University Council