

Attendance: See item 3 Appendix A for the listing of members in attendance.

The acting chair of Council, Dr. Chelsea Willness, called the meeting to at 2:30 noting that quorum had been reached.

The meeting began with two memorials. Honouring Dr. Robert McNeill, professor emeritus of the University of Saskatchewan, a tribute was given by Dr. Stan Bardal. A tribute to honour Dr. Peter Nikiforuk dean emeritus, College of Engineering, was given by Dr. Madan Gupta.

1. Adoption of the agenda

DOBSON/J. WILSON: to adopt the agenda as circulated.

CARRIED

2. Opening remarks

Dr. Willness acknowledged that Council meets on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Metis ancestors of our gathering place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

The chair reminded those in attendance of our usual protocols for discussion and debate.

Dr. Willness noted that on Oct. 11th two topics were discussed at the monthly meeting of Council chairs and the President's executive committee: international programs like AthenaSWAN and plans for increased diversity and equity, and the use of student evaluations in promotion and tenure cases.

3. Approval of Minutes of the meeting of September 20, 2018

DE BOER/J. WILSON: That the minutes of the September 20, 2018 are approved as circulated.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

5. Report of the President

President Peter Stoicheff noted that the launch of the University Plan (as approved by University Council, Board, and Senate) took place on October 10th and was successful, well attended event. The provincial cabinet was also on campus meeting with the president, provost and vice-

president, finance on October 10th. Members of cabinet, including the premier, attended the launch of the plan and were supportive of the university's direction.

The president indicated that he attended meetings of Universities Canada in October. Highlights included advocacy for universities on Parliament Hill in advance of the federal budget; student mobility, and the continuation of building reconciliation forums that are taking place annually. This year's forum will be held in November at the University of Victoria.

The president informed Council of the formal opening of Merlis Belcher Place taking place that evening and on Saturday, October 27th.

6. Report of the Provost

The Provost, Dr. Tony Vannelli made a presentation on the university plan and the financial sustainability of the U of S.

Questions were posed regarding plans for promoting interdisciplinarity; health sciences restructuring; inclusivity in the university plan and its implementation; and comparisons of internationalization and overall enrolment with the U15. The provost responded that deans would be consulted regarding encouragement of promoting interdisciplinarity and restructuring of health sciences, and that these would be topics at future meetings of Council; that the implementation of the university plan will be inclusive of all the disciplines on campus, including education, the humanities, social sciences, and fine arts.

The provost and vice-provost, teaching, learning and student experience, Dr. Patti McDougall noted we are in the lower segment of the U15 for overall enrolment, top for Indigenous and international students, middle of the pack for the distribution of graduate to undergraduate enrolment. Plans to grow to a total of approximately twenty-eight thousand students would put the U of S among the middle of the U15.

The chair requested that further questions be addressed to the provost during question period.

7. Report of the Vice-President Research

The vice-president research, Dr. Karen Chad, made a presentation to Council providing an update on the university's research excellence, and highlighting recent U of S achievements in Tri-Agency research grants.

The question of success rate in terms of magnitude of dollars and the size of grants was raised. The vice-president committed to return to Council with that information.

8. Student Societies

8.1 Report from the USSU

Rollin Baldhead, president of the USSU provided a report to Council. It was reported that eight new student councilors were elected in the by-election in October. A question was raised regarding the USSU's participation in the provincial association of student unions. It was noted that there has been a delay in the business of the group moving forward.

8.2 Report from the GSA

Naheda Sahtout, president of the GSA provided a report to Council. She indicated that the priority for the GSA this year will be to continue to focus on improvements in the supervisor-student relationship, and that the GSA would also continue to make a case for representation on the Board of Governors. A council member inquired as to whether the GSA was seeking that the University of Saskatchewan Act be reopened so as to include graduate student representation, which Ms. Sahtout affirmed, though she noted that their interim strategy was to seek observer status.

9. Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee (TLARC)

Vince Bruni-Bossio, chair of TLARC presented the revised learning charter to Council for consideration and approval. Mr. Bruni-Bossio thanked the working group and TLARC for their work over the last two years on the development of the charter. Dr. McDougall made a presentation regarding the changes to the charter, and answered questions that were raised at the Council meeting of September 20th.

Additional questions were raised regarding the role of Indigenous Elders in the classroom; the need for in-house Elders; and support for Indigenous curriculum development. Dr. McDougall noted the resources available in the Experiential Learning Fund that is available to support such work and appropriate compensation for Elders and Knowledge Keepers. Indigenous student participation in reconciliation and in the renewal of the learning charter were discussed. Dr. McDougall noted that Iloradanon Efimoff had been closely involved in the revisions to the charter, and that she had continued to be involved despite her support for the Indigenous Students' Council declaration last spring that they would not participate in activities connected with reconciliation. Dr. McDougall also stated that the revisions of the learning charter also began and concluded with Indigenous ceremony.

9.1 Request for Decision: Approval of the Learning Charter

(BRUNI-BOSSIO/PAPAGERAKIS): *that Council approve the revised Learning Charter.*

CARRIED

The Council chair remarked that Rollin Baldhead is the fourth Indigenous president of the USSU, and that the U of S president and Council chair are both very proud to have the leadership of Indigenous students at university Council and the U of S.

10. Nominations Committee

The Council chair noted for Council members and guests that after each nomination is recommended, and before a vote is taken, that she would call three times for nominations from the floor. Dr. Willness welcomed Dr. Pamela Downe, chair of the Nominations Committee to present the nominations.

10.1 Request for Decision: Promotions Appeal Panel member Nomination

(DOWNE/URQUHART): *is recommended that Council approve the nomination of Nancy Gyurscik, College of Kinesiology to the promotions appeal panel effective immediately and continuing until June 30, 2019.*

The chair asked thrice for any nominations from the floor.

(CHERNOFF): *An appeal was made for a count to confirm quorum.*

As quorum was not met, the chair asked for a motion to adjourn (refer to Table 1 for action items).

(URQUHART): *An appeal was made to move to item 13.1 on the agenda, and to have PPC give their report, which was provided for information not for decision.*

13. Planning and Priorities Committee (PPC)

The chair asked Dr. Dirk de Boer, chair of the planning and priorities committee to present the item for information.

13.1 Report for Information: Revisions to the Tuition and Fees Authorization Policy

Dr. de Boer presented the Tuition and Fees Authorization Policy item for information, noting two changes from the materials that were presented in the Council materials. At the Board meeting the proviso was added: “Notwithstanding this delegation [of the Board to the Provost for approving student and class fees], the Provost will not publicize general changes to tuition rates prior to informing the Board” (Tuition and Fees Authorization Policy, U of S 2018, 3, 10). Also that a line was missing from the materials following the statement “The Fee Review Committee, as delegated by the Provost, is responsible for reviewing requests for all new student and class fees, and changes to existing fees” “... and providing recommendations to the Provost” (ibid, 3).

A question was raised regarding the nature and purpose of the consultation, i.e. whether it would just be to provide information, or if input from students would be considered in the setting of tuition rates. The chair of PPC indicated that the procedures for consultation should be understood to mean that views expressed by all students will be considered in the tuition setting process. The university secretary also noted that the Board was concerned with the level of consultation, and were assured that students would be heard.

14. Other business

14.1 College of Medicine’s (CoM) diversity and social CoM report

Dr. Marcel D’Eon inquired as to the status of the College of Medicine’s diversity and social accountability report that was to be presented to Council. The University Secretary’s Office indicated that the report was received by the Academic Programs Committee and would be coming forward to the November meeting of Council.

14.2 Council agendas and meeting time

Dr. D'Eon inquired whether the committee responsible for agendas could pre-plan the meetings to allow more time for decisions. The chair of Council noted for the record that the previous twelve meetings were on time, but that the recommendation would be taken under advisement.

14.3 Council chair

The university secretary announced that the governance committee received notice that council chair, Dr. Kevin Flynn has resigned. Nominations will open on Monday, October 29, 2018 and will be open for thirty days, followed by an election.

15. Question period

One of the senate representatives inquired as to the male to female balance among senior administration and the students at the U of S. Dr. McDougall responded that the balance is 54 percent male and 46 percent female; however, that it will become more difficult to report on gender in a binary way given that at least some people are choosing not to identify as male or female. As one example, the U of S now allows students to identify as “gender variant” or to decline to declare their gender.

16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by motion (URQUHART/D'EON) at 4:45 p.m.

Table 1. Action items

Page and note	Date	Item	Person
p. 2, 7	25/10/2018	Research performance in total dollars and size of grant	Dr. Karen Chad
p. 4-5, items 10 to 12	25/10/2018	Deferred agenda items will be brought forward to the next meeting of Council	Dr. Chelsea Willness
p.4, item 14.1	25/10/2018	Present CoM's diversity social accountability report for information	Dr. Beth Bilson/APC
p.4, item 14.2	25/10/2018	Coordinating committee consider sequencing of Council agenda items	Dr. Chelsea Willness