AGENDA ITEM NO: 11.3

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
REQUEST FOR DECISION

PRESENTED BY: Stephen Urquhart, chair
Governance Committee

DATE OF MEETING: June 18, 2020

SUBJECT: Revisions to Council Bylaws – Governance Committee

DECISION REQUESTED:

(URQUHART/MOUSSEAU): It is recommended that Council approve the changes to the Governance Committee’s terms of reference effective June 30, 2020.

PURPOSE:

To update (and consider separately) the Governance Committee’s terms of reference in the University Council Bylaws.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY:

As per item 11.2 in this June 18, 2020 Council agenda package, the governance committee undertook a review of “the membership, powers and duties of committees of Council and recommending to Council revisions to the membership, powers and duties of committees.” It followed that the Governance Committee considered its own terms of reference in the Council Bylaws. Again, with a view to membership reflecting shared governance, and an action-oriented governance role.

In summary, the following was clarified in the governance committee’s terms of reference:

- The Governance Committee clarified that the University Secretary is an ex officio non-voting member.
- The committee considered the voting status of USSU and GSA representatives in the Governance Committee (see attached memo). Student representatives had been added to the Governance Committee as non-voting members in November 2019. The Governance Committee weighed the question of students voting status and sought the input of the Coordinating Committee of Council. The consensus view of both committees was that the work of the Governance Committee was unique
within the work of University Council, and no change to the voting status is recommended. The Governance Committee appreciates the important and powerful voice student representatives exercise in the committee.

A notice of motion to amend the University Council Bylaws was duly presented to Council on May 21, 2020. The motion was divided into two for the June 18, 2020 Council meeting, but with no substantive changes to the recommended revisions to the Council Bylaws. This change was made in order to consider independently the GSA’s and USSU’s request to reconsider the voting status of the student representatives on the committee.

**FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED:**

Posting of the Council Bylaws on the Council website.

**ATTACHMENT:**

1. Memo from the USSU and GSA regarding voting status on the Governance Committee
2. Tracked changes of updates to University Council Bylaws – Governance Committee terms of reference
April 29, 2020

RE: Student Membership on Governance Committee of Council and Student Engagement on COVID-19 Crisis Management Teams

To the Governance Committee and USask administration,

We are disappointed that the Governance Committee, on April 21, 2020, voted to not proceed forward with assigning voting membership for students on the Governance Committee of Council. This decision was made on the basis that the Governance Committee is different to other Council Committees, and therefore does not warrant voting membership for students. The basis of this decision is contrary to the values of our university, and therefore, is unacceptable.

Students have played integral roles in Council Committees and have shaped many of the discussions that have taken place. With this decision, we continue to build a wall between students, administration and faculty, and with this wall, we are pushing students away. We continue to be one of the few U15 institutions that attempts to legitimize a lack of student engagement on institutional governing bodies.

Furthermore, the university administration continues to exclude students, appointed by the USSU and GSA executive, on any of the COVID-19 Crisis Management Teams. Student leaders are at the forefront of addressing the needs and concerns of their membership and it is critical that we have open and direct lines of communication every step of the way so that we can properly inform our members of the actions taken as well as directly advocate for them.

As student leaders, we are disheartened to see these decisions move forward; as an institution it seems we are taking one step forward and two steps back. We can certainly do better to ensure students are part of the shared governance structure and part of the decision making process. In keeping with our university’s mission, we again request the rightful inclusion of our student representatives on these committees.

USSU Executives and GSA Executives
II. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Membership

Three elected members of Council, one of whom will be Chair President’s designate
Chair of Council
Chair, academic programs committee of Council
Chair, planning and priorities committee of Council

*Ex Officio* (non-voting)
University Secretary

Student members (non-voting)
One graduate student appointed by the GSA
USSU President or designate

Administrative Support
Office of the University Secretary

The Governance Committee is responsible for:

1) Reviewing the Bylaws of Council and recommending to Council revisions to the Bylaws.

2) Reviewing the Bylaws of Faculty Councils and recommending to Colleges and Schools changes to the Bylaws.

3) Reviewing the membership, powers, and duties of committees of Council and recommending to Council revisions to the membership, powers and duties of committees.

4) Recommending to Council regulations and procedures for Council and Council committees.

5) Advising Council with respect to its responsibilities and powers under *The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995* and recommending to Council on proposed changes to the Act.

6) Nominating members and Chair of the Nominations Committee of Council.

7) Providing advice to the Chair of Council on the role of the Chair.

8) Recommending to Council rules and procedures, including the penalties as prescribed by section 61(1)(h) of *The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995*, to deal with allegations of academic misconduct on the part of students.

9) Recommending to Council rules and procedures to deal with appeals by students and former students concerning academic decisions affecting them as provided in section 61 (1) (j) of *The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995*.

10) Designating individuals to act as representatives of the committee on any other bodies, when requested, where such representation is deemed by the committee to be beneficial.