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

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:35pm.

2. **Tributes**

There was a tribute to Professor Emeritus, Dr. (Charles) Dennis O’Shaughnessy, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, presented by William (Bill) Laverty.

There was a tribute to Professor Emeritus, Dr. Ronald Fleming, Department of Electrical Engineering, presented by Robert Johanson.

3. **Adoption of the Agenda**

Motion (Gjevre/Flynn): *That the agenda be approved as circulated.*

CARRIED

4. **Opening remarks**

The chair, Dr. Jay Wilson, acknowledged that Council meets on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis, paying respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of our gathering place and reaffirming our relationship with one another.

The chair announced that Council meeting dates for the next academic year 2020-2021 were approved by the coordinating committee and posted to the website. He noted that there will not be a February 2021 meeting in the schedule. The Council meeting locations are changing for the next academic year 2020/21; they will be held in the Convocation Hall. This is to accommodate class schedules.

The chair reported on the recent breakfast meeting of the chairs of Council with the PEC. The topics of discussion were the future of the University Club and the University Plan.

Dr. Wilson reminded those in attendance of the usual protocols for discussion and debate.

On behalf of Council, Dr. Wilson congratulated the president on his reappointment.

Dr. Wilson also thanked Dr. Beth Bilson for her work as University Secretary as this was her last meeting in the role.

5. **Approval of Minutes of the meeting of November 21, 2019**

Motion (Dobson/de Boer): *That the minutes be approved as presented.*

CARRIED
6. Business Arising from the Minutes

6.1 Action Item - response to the question of college elections for college members’ seats on Council

Dr. Stephen Urquhart, chair of the governance committee responded to a question from the last Council meeting. The question was if the university was following the *University of Saskatchewan Act 1995* with respect to the election of college representatives, as defined by section 53(2) b and c. Based on discussion with the secretary’s office, he confirmed we are following the Act. College representatives’ terms are three years long, so the last a memo seeking nominations for college representatives was January 2017. A new call for nominations will go out in January 2020. He asked Council members ask their colleagues to put their names forward to serve either as members at large or as college representatives.

There was a question about the suggested changes to the record of the chair’s remarks at the October 17, 2019 meeting of Council. The chair confirmed that the amendments to the minutes were completed and posted on the website.

7. Report of the President

President Stoicheff thanked Dr. Bilson for her service to the university in the role of University Secretary. He informed Council that she will be taking on a new position to advise on the appropriate organization of our different legal services across the university.

The president directed Council to his report for December 2019 as provided in the agenda materials.

There was a question about the priority of Indigenization in the University Plan and the university’s procurement strategy. The president responded that Greg Fowler, vice president finance and resources would provide more information to Council on the university’s Indigenous procurement strategy and the procurement policy at a future meeting. [Table 1. Action 1]

There was a question about the nature of the MOUs recently signed with different institutions internationally, specifically in India, and whether the MOUs would increase opportunities for student exchanges. The president replied that some agreements are high-level and include aspirations about student mobility. Other agreements are more specific to particular areas of study or research.

8. Report of the Provost

Provost Tony Vannelli presented his December 2019 report. He discussed three items in particular: budget planning, senior leadership searches, and the task force on public health. He indicated that resource allocations had been made to all colleges and support centres, and would be part of the approved budget from the Board in March 2020. He indicated that colleges and schools are looking to integrate their plans with their budgets in a way that has positive impacts on programs, our academic mission and research priorities to keep the university strong.

With respect to decanal searches, of the university’s 14 colleges and 3 schools, 7 are undergoing some form of review or search for decanal positions, providing information on the timing of the Nursing, Library, WCVM, Law, SENS, Kinesiology, and CGPS searches and reviews.
With regard to the task force on public health, he reported that the consultation process has been mapped out. He will report back on progress at Council in the New Year.

A Council member requested, again [from the last meeting], that the resource allocation information from 2018/19 be posted online for transparency. The provost indicated that it would be made available in January 2020. [Table 1. Action 2]

9. Student Societies

9.1 Report from the USSU

Regan Ratt-Misponas, President of the USSU, presented the USSU Report for December 2019. He extended congratulations to Peter Stoicheff on his reappointment as president on behalf of the USSU. He also thanked Beth Bilson for her service as University Secretary. He thanked the USSU executive team for their remarkable jobs in their duties this year and on Council committees. He reminded Council that elections will take place in the New Year for USSU executive positions.

He highlighted four components of the “Path Forward,” the strategic plan of the USSU, which will be posted on the USSU website. Mr. Ratt-Misponas read a poem available on the USSU Facebook site with regard to the students’ holiday wish list, including, e.g. subsidies for open access education resources, adequate provincial operating funding, tuition waivers, and a reasonable and predictable tuition policy.

9.2 Report from the GSA

Alejandra Fonseca, VP of Student Affairs, on behalf of Mery Mendoza, President of the GSA wished happy holidays and presented the GSA report.

10. Academic Programs Committee

Dr. Susan Detmer, chair of APC presented three requests for decision and one report for information as provided in the agenda materials as follows.

Dr. Detmer presented a request to change the curriculum of the DVM program to move more para-clinical training earlier into the program to align with the recommendations of the most recent accreditation review. The number of contact hours was also updated.

10.1 Request for Decision: Curriculum Revision for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) Program

(Detmer/Spurr): It is recommended that Council approve the replacement program for the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) Program, effective May 2020. CARRIED

Dr. Detmer presented a request for decision to change the admissions qualifications of the DVM program requiring that applicants have at least two years of full-time university courses to ensure that applicants are sufficiently prepared to succeed in the program. University Senate will be asked to confirm this decision at its April 25, 2020 meeting.
10.2 Request for Decision: Change to Admissions Qualifications – Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) Program

(Detmer/Spurr): *It is recommended that Council approve the proposed changes to the admissions qualifications for the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program, effective the 2021-22 admissions cycle.*

There was a question about whether these apparent restrictions to the admissions qualifications would allow for a holistic approach to assessing an applicant’s suitability for the program. Dr. Detmer responded there was a thorough discussion on the topic at APC. Also, that in certain cases, applicants were encouraged to contact the college to have their particular circumstances considered. The wording was also revised to the satisfaction of the committee to allow for different semester systems in Alberta and British Columbia.

There was a question about the data supporting the suggestion that students would be better prepared if they have taken 2 years of fulltime undergraduate students. Dr. Chris Clark of WCVM was invited to respond to the question. He indicated that a review of the data had been completed. He reported that there is an increasing number of people in the applicant pool taking lower credit units in order to keep up their GPA. Of those students who have struggled in the program, several had not completed two full years of study before their being admitted. He also responded with regard to the issue of holistic admissions process that it is based 60% on academic marks, and 40% on panel-style interview. This new admissions process will level the playing field and ensure that a high level of academic performance is demonstrated.

CARRIED

Dr. Detmer presented a request for decision to change the admissions qualifications for the BSN in Nursing that would require that applicants to the program take an online test of non-academic competencies. University Senate will be asked to confirm this decision at its April 25, 2020 meeting.

10.3 Request for Decision: Change to Admissions Qualifications – Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Program

(Detmer/Spurr): *It is recommended that Council approve the proposed changes to the admissions qualifications for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program, effective the 2021-22 admissions cycle.*

There were questions on the level of detail included in the proposal, and significant weight placed on the online tool. There was a question of whether this motion could be tabled until more information was provided to Council.

Dr. Detmer responded that there was an exhaustive discussion at APC that included: what information would or could be gleaned from the test, implicit bias, accessibility of the test, and data security.

There was a question from the USSU president about whether there were student representatives on the committees and what concerns they might have raised. Dr. Detmer replied that there are graduate and USSU representatives on APC and that their concerns were heard. Dr. Hope Balinski of the College of Nursing also responded that there are students on the college’s undergraduate education committee
and they understood importance of measuring non-academic competencies for success in clinical settings.

**CARRIED**

10.4 Report for Information: Change to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program – addition of NURS 206.1

Dr. Detmer reported that in keeping with the delegated approval to APC, APC had approved the addition of a course in Nursing to add clinical experience. The rationale is that it will better meet needs of students and partners in the health region.

11. **Nominations Committee**

Dr. Vicki Squires, chair of the Nominations Committee, presented two requests for decision.

11.1 Request for Decision: Nomination to the Recreation and Athletics Advisory Council

(Squires/Urquhart): *It is recommended that Council approve the nomination of Dr. David Blackburn, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition to serve as member of the recreation and athletics advisory council effective immediately and continuing until June 30, 2020.*

The chair called for nominations from the floor three times. There were none.

There was a point of order raised as to whether a vote was needed at Council because the MOU says that the Nominations committee appoints the individual. Dr. Squires responded that the Nominations Committee is considering the procedural issue but did not want to delay the process of selecting the RAAC member as the meetings commence in January.

**CARRIED**

11.2 Request for Decision: Nomination to the Academic Programs Committee

(Squires/Urquhart): *It is recommended that Council approve the nomination of Dr. Matthew Neufeld, Department of History, to serve as member of the academic programs committee effective immediately and continuing until June 30, 2021.*

The chair called for nominations from the floor three times. There were none.

**CARRIED**

12. **Governance Committee**

Dr. Stephen Urquhart, chair of the governance committee, presented two requests for decision and one request for input.

First, with regard to the coordinating committee terms of reference, they currently include a standing subcommittee. Years ago, this subcommittee used meet periodically with the Provost’s Committee of Integrated Planning to facilitate the flow of information between Council and PCIP. This committee had not met in some time and PCIP is now and advisory committee to the provost. The governance committee discussed the work of this subcommittee, and met with the provost to discuss. It was agreed that there was a continued need for this subcommittee, but with a clearer role.
12.1 Request for Decision: Strategic coordination subcommittee terms of reference

(Urquhart/Mousseau): It is recommended that Council approve the amendment of the Council bylaws by replacing the existing terms of reference for the Standing Subcommittee of the Coordinating Committee with the terms of reference for the Strategic Coordination Subcommittee as set out in the attachment.

CARRIED

12.2 Request for Input: Principles for Federation and Affiliation with the University of Saskatchewan (USask)

Dr. Urquhart indicated that this is a request for input to solicit feedback from University Council on draft principles for establishing new federations or affiliations with the University of Saskatchewan. Following receipt of feedback, the draft principles would be revised and shared with the Board of Governors, Senate, and the federated and affiliated colleges for their input, and would be brought back to Council for approval.

The president of Lutheran Theological Seminary, on behalf of the colleges of St. Andrews and Emmanuel-St. Chad, thanked Council and the governance committee for bringing these principles forward. He suggested that having a specific location on the USask campus for coordination and communication would be beneficial.

There was a question about how shared support for the university’s mission, vision and values would be demonstrated, and how this aligned with the statement about not requiring other institutions to ascribe to those values. Dr. Urquhart responded that the committee recognized this balance and suggested that we reflect on those values, work together where they are in alignment, and respect where they differ.

12.3 Request for Decision: Nomination to the Nominations Committee

(Urquhart/Mousseau): It is recommended that Council approve the nomination of Dr. Rachel Engler-Stringer, Department of Community Health and Epidemiology, to serve as member of the nominations committee effective immediately and continuing until June 30, 2022.

Chair called for nominations from the floor three times. There were none.

CARRIED

13. Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee

Vince Bruni-Bossio of the teaching, learning and academic resources committee, presented one request for decision. He noted that in 2018 Council approved the SLEQ and that TLARC began working on a policy thereafter. The policy is meant to ensure clarity, transparency and fairness.

Dr. Patti McDougall provided background and overview of the policy document. She noted that the policy is within Council’s purview and that the procedures are under the purview of her office. She gave a presentation [attached].

There was a question about the ownership and trusteeship for the data collected through the SLEF. Dr. McDougall responded that the SLEF policy should be considered alongside the university’s data...
management and stewardship policy. Moreover, colleges and departments are asked to set out guidelines as to how the SLEF data is gathered and stewarded.

There was a further question about what would be done with the data and a suggestion that there should be different policies for individual vs. aggregate data usage. Dr. McDougall replied that the uses of the data are bargained and are part of the tenure and promotion standards, and that the JCMA had been consulted in the development of the policy.

13.1 Request for Decision: Student Learning Experience Feedback Policy

(Bruni-Bossio/Jones): It is recommended that Council approve the Student Learning Experience Feedback Policy.

CARRIED

14. UPlan Update

Before addressing the UPlan update, the president thanked Carl Still and Bill Harrison for attending the meeting for the discussion of the principles for federation and affiliation. He said we are fortunate to have such partnerships within the province, and that it is a unique ecosystem to that of any other province. He acknowledged the good work that the colleges do and the fact that we are improved by our association with them.

The president reminded Council that when the plan was drafted, it was agreed that we would devise an outward looking plan, one that could not be transposed on any other university, and that in the genre of plans, ours would be distinctive. He reflected that the plan is a sort of social contract, and in some ways is a restatement of the people’s university. He noted that when we describe our needs to funders, for instance in alignment with the provinces’ plan for growth, our plan intersects and supports the government’s plan. This is a measure of proof that we were forward-looking in the plan.

President Stoicheff remarked that the nature of this report on the plan was more in the nature of storytelling, but that not every report would be in this form. Sometimes it will be reported on the basis of data and analysis. This report is based on feedback from all the leaders of academic units and administrative units on examples of how they are showing progress against the goals, commitments and guideposts in the plan. A website is going to be devised that will capture continual progress on the plan.

President Peter Stoicheff and Provost Tony Vannelli presented an update on our progress on the University Plan 2025 [attached]. The provost informed Council that the measurement of progress against the plan would also be data driven. In February or March there would be another report, and then annually in June after that [Table 1. Action 3].

There was a round of Q&A considering the following.

Whether the projects can be mapped geographically and visually. The provost and president agreed.

With a local university it is challenging to move to the international stage. What short term strategies are we employing? The provost responded that mobility agreements, work-study placements, international training of students for graduate and undergraduate students, and federal government funding prospects are just some of the opportunities being explored.
There was a comment that the plan should better emphasize the importance of climate action, and that phraseology on the topic was taken for granted. The president reminded Council that sustainability was one of the guiding principles behind the plan, and that it was reflected in the “weave”. He also reminded Council of the presentation that Dr. Creed gave a few month ago, the task force that had been established, and the special advisor role that had been created.

There was a comment that the plan needed buy-in from the ground-up, in addition to support from leadership and our outside partners, and that incentives are needed to ensure that this would be possible. By way of example that this plan was not just a plan belonging to the university leadership, the president reminded Council that the MOUs with FSIN, the Prince Albert Grand Council, STC, and MNS were all invitations to the university. Furthermore, that faculty are also incentivised because they want to make a difference in their respective communities. People come here [to USask] because they want their academic work to make a positive impact.

15. Other business

None.

16. Question period

None.

17. Adjournment

(Urquhart): The meeting adjourned by motion at 5:00pm.

Table 1. Action items

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<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Page</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>p.2 s.7</td>
<td>Dec 18/19</td>
<td>Present information on the university’s Indigenous procurement strategy &amp; policy</td>
<td>Greg Fowler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>p.3 s.8</td>
<td>Dec 18/19</td>
<td>To post the 2018/19 resource allocation online</td>
<td>Provost Vannelli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>p.7 s.14</td>
<td>Dec 18/19</td>
<td>To report back to Council on progress on the university plan in March 2020, and annual in June</td>
<td>Provost Vannelli</td>
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Attachments

1. Appendix A – Attendance from the meeting of December 19, 2019
2. Appendix B – Student Learning Experience Feedback Policy and Procedures
3. Appendix C – UPlan update – Delivering on our Commitments

Next meeting January 16, 2020 – Please send regrets to michelle.kjargaard@usask.ca.

Deadline for submission of motions to the coordinating committee: December 24, 2019.