

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF REGINA COUNCIL
30 MARCH 2020
VIA WEB CONFERENCING

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ex Officio: V. Timmons, E. Aito, D. Button, L. Castellanos, T. Chase, J. Cranston, J. D'Arcy, D. Farenick, G. Grandy, S. Helewa, B. Hillis, E. Hussein, N. Jones, B. Kayseas, H. King, R. Kleer, K. McNutt, N. Önder, Y. Petry, T. Phenix, H. Riemer, C. Roche, J. Smith, R. Staseson, G. Sylvestre, B. Waytuck

Elected: M. Akinpelu, I. Al-Anbagi, M. Argerami, P. Bruno, A. Cameron, S. Campbell, N. Chevalier, D. Cripps, D. Dick, E. Eaton, J. Farney, D. Halabuza, B. Hall, S. Hengen, A. Herman, L. Hoeber, M. Hrebenik, S. Khan, P. Laforge, P. Leavitt, K. Lehmann, P. Lewis, A. Magnan, R. Manzon, P. Mather, T. McIntosh, D. Meban, J. Melançon, J. Munro, B. Nelke, Z. Papandreou, R. Petry, J. Piwowar, C. Ramsay, B. Reul, K. Richardson, B. Ridha, C. Riegel, A. Rubalcava, G. Russell, O. Salad Hersi, D. Sharpe, J. Siemer, A. Snider, M. Spooner, B. Sterenberg, D. Stilling, B. Stockton, A. Stoddart, D. Storie, C. Street, R. Truszkowski, A. Urban, J. Wagner, L. Watson, H. Weger, S. Whalley, A. Wickson-Griffiths, C. Winter, S. Young

Guests: R. Evans, L. Mitchell, K. Rasmussen

Regrets: M. Brigham, M. DeCoste, d. Gregory, D. Moen

Recorder: S. Stewart

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m. by the President and Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Vianne Timmons.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Papandreou - McNutt

Moved that the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

2. Remarks from the Chair

In keeping with the Indigenization commitment in the University's strategic plan, the Chair acknowledged that the University is located on Treaty 4 and Treaty 6 territory and the traditional homeland of the Métis.

President Timmons offered her remarks, including:

Thank you to everyone during this challenging time. The COVID-19 pandemic has been very disruptive to delivery of our services and while these are unprecedented times, we will surmount the challenges they pose.

As this is my last meeting as Chair of Executive of Council, thank you for supporting and challenging me over the last 12 years. It has been an honour to serve this University with you.

3. Items for Decision by Executive of Council

3.1 Revision to the Council Rules and Regulations, Appendix I, Page 2

G. Sylvestre presented the report to Executive of Council.

Sylvestre - Button

Moved to revise the Executive of Council section of the Council Rules and Regulations to allow members in attendance using web conferencing technology to vote on matters being considered by Executive of Council.

An amendment to the motion was suggested:

*Moved to revise the Executive of Council section of the Council Rules and Regulations to allow members in attendance using web conferencing technology to **speak to and** vote on matters being considered by Executive of Council.*

An amendment to the rationale was suggested:

*In cases where the Chair calls a meeting indicating an option for remote attendance, web conferencing technology may be used to facilitate the attendance of, **participation in**, and voting by, members of Executive of Council.*

The mover and seconder supported the proposed amendments.

The question was called on the amended motion.

CARRIED

3.2 Changes to Withdrawal Date and Grading System for the Winter 2020 Term, Appendix II, Pages 3-6

J. D’Arcy presented the report to Executive of Council.

3.2.1 Change to ‘Grade of W’ Withdrawal Date for the Winter 2020 Term

D’Arcy - Cripps

Moved to extend the ‘Grade of W’ withdrawal date to the last day of classes in the Winter 2020 term (9 April 2020).

Discussion followed. Topics of discussion included:

- Information will be provided to students to explain possible impacts of withdrawal and other decisions
- Impact of withdrawal from courses for international students

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

3.2.2 Grading System for the Winter 2020 Term

D’Arcy - Lewis

Moved to create a new course grade: CRC (Credit – COVID 19).

The Registrar briefly described the item, and answered questions related to the recommendation.

Discussion followed. Topics of discussion included:

- Implications of the CRC grade for students in relation to selective entry programs, academic awards, etc.
- Grading options provided by other Canadian universities
- Anticipated process to be followed by students wanting to select the CRC grade
- Other mechanisms to assist students who may be struggling or unsuccessful in their Winter 2020 courses due to COVID-19 (deferrals, retroactive withdrawals, etc.)

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

D'Arcy - Lewis

Moved to permit students who have received a passing numerical grade in a course delivered in the Winter 2020 term the choice to replace the grade with CRC (Credit – COVID 19).

Discussion followed. Topics of discussion included:

- The impact of CRC on academic action for the Winter 2020 term
- Extending the 'Grade of W' timeframe, or including a no-credit grade for students who are unsuccessful in the Winter 2020 term

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

There was desire from members of Executive of Council to consider an additional grading option. The Registrar suggested consideration of an additional grade option of NCC (No Credit – COVID 19). Due to the necessity of providing information and options to students as quickly as possible, the Chair agreed to accept a motion from the floor, in recognition of the extraordinary circumstances.

Farenick - Cranston

Moved to create a new course grade of NCC (No Credit - COVID 19). Students who have received a failing numerical grade in a course delivered in the Winter 2020 term will be permitted to choose to replace the grade with NCC (No Credit – COVID 19).

Similar to selection of CRC, the deadline for students to select NCC will be May 31. NCC will not impact GPA calculations. Selection of this option will not result in a refund of tuition and fees.

Discussion followed. Topics of discussion included:

- Use of the grade of NP (Not Passed) in cases where students have abandoned their course. NP cannot be converted to NCC, as it is not a numerical grade
- Communication to faculty, staff, and students regarding the new Winter 2020 grade options

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

1 Against - P. Bruno

1 Abstention

Following the discussion on grade options, a question was raised whether Executive of Council was an appropriate venue to discuss student course evaluations for the Winter 2020 term. Dr. T. Chase noted that the Collective Agreement, Article 17.18, places course evaluation forms in the Dean's purview following consultation in committee with academic staff members of the appropriate unit.

4. Adjournment – Watson (2:33 p.m.)



Glenys Sylvestre
Executive Director (University Governance) and University Secretary