

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF REGINA COUNCIL
1 DECEMBER 2023
ADMINISTRATION HUMANITIES FIFTH FLOOR BOARDROOM AND WEB CONFERENCING

MEMBERS: S. Abbott, T. Afolabi, M. Akinpelu, I. Al-Anbagi, E. Almehdawe, G. Asmundson, A. Bais, C. Bakker, M. Barshovski, R. Blake, W. Bonner, C. Bradley, K. Bruer, P. Bruno, I. Campbell, L. Campbell, E. Carlton, S. Carnochan Naqvi, C. Carter, P. Charrier, S. Cheng, M. Chipanshi, P. Choi, I. Coulson, M. Coupal, D. Cripps, M. Dalrymple, J. D'Arcy, J. Demers, D. Dick, B. Doerksen, R. Doran, R. Dosselmann, I. Dostaler, A. Douai, E. Eaton, O. El-Halfawy, D. Elliott, P. Elliott, J. Fields, R. Floricel, D. Ford, J. Gacek, R. Ganev, S. Gaudet, C. Gelowitz, M. Goodwin, J. Gordon, S. Granovsky-Larsen, A. Hancock, N. Hansmeier, C. Hanson, C. Hebert, S. Helewa, M. Jerry, X. Ji, S. Johnston, J. Keshen (Chair), C. Kulczycki, E. Lawn, K. Lehmann, T. Levit, L. Loutzenhiser, C. Marsh, V. Mathews, B. McQuinn, D. Meban, E. McNair, J. Melançon, S. Murphy, J. Nahachewsky, C. Oriet, R. Petry, Y. Petry, S. Petty, K. Phillips, C. Pollard, M. Purdham, V. Ramshaw, C. Riegel, K. Robinson, C. Rocke, A. Rubalcava, S. Sangster, A. Sardarli, S. Schroeter, D. Sharpe, M. Shires, T. Shokirova, J. Smith, E. Soifer, T. Sperlich, M. Spooner, B. Sterenberg, A. Sterzuk, A. Stevens, M. Stewart, A. Stoddart, D. Storie, L. Sykes Tottenham, G. Sylvestre, L. Tiggelers, J. Totosy de Zepetnek, B. Tomin, P. Tontiwachwuthikul, T. Turner, G. Vujanovic, S. Whalley, S. Wilson, K. Wright, C. Yost, S. Zanette

GUESTS: J. Crivea, S. King, N. Paskewitz, R. Seidler, C. Weisgerber

RECORDER: S. Stewart

In keeping with the University's commitment to Reconciliation, the Chair acknowledged that the University is located on Treaty 4 territory with a presence in Treaty 6. These are the territories of the nêhiyawak, Anihşināpēk, Dakota, Lakota, and Nakoda, and the traditional homeland of the Métis/Michif Nation.

As quorum was not obtained by the meeting start time (9:30 a.m.), the Chair of Council, President and Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Jeff Keshen proceeded with his report to Councillors in attendance.

President Keshen offered remarks on the following:

- 2024/2025 budget preparation and planned budget forums
- International and domestic recruitment initiatives
- Upcoming participation at COP 28 – United Nations Climate Change conference as part of the Province of Saskatchewan delegation
- Recent government engagement, including discussions on a new multi-year funding agreement

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- Update on the institutional identity initiative
 - University of Regina will be hosting the 2025 Vanier Cup at Mosaic Stadium
 - Various University initiatives including migration to Microsoft 365 and introduction of full-year registration
 - Elimination of the international student fee differential for PhD students

The President recognized that this is a stressful time for students, especially those with connections to areas experiencing conflict and violence, and expressed an earnest desire for peace.

Following the Chair's remarks, Council was invited to share information or raise questions for discussion.

Discussion followed on the University's budgeting and resource allocation processes, including participation of federated colleges in academic unit reviews to ensure adequate resources are provided to academic programs.

The Chair also commented on the nature of the motion submitted for consideration by Council. While fully supportive of academic freedom and political debate, it would be inappropriate for the University president to take a political stand on behalf of the institution, or to engage in activities that are divisive or could potentially lead to violent response.

Quorum was obtained at 9:49 a.m. and the meeting was called to order.

1. Approval of the Agenda

C. Pollard – G. Vujanovic

Moved that the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Minutes of Meeting 12 April 2023

P. Choi – A. Douai

Moved that the minutes be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Business Arising from the Minutes – None.

4. Report from the Chair of Council

The Chair delivered his report prior to the call to order.

5. Item(s) for Consideration by Council

5.1 Conflict in Gaza, *For Recommendation*, Appendix I, Pages 2

M. Stewart – E. Eaton

Moved that Council recommend to the President that the University of Regina join others around the world in making a public statement calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

Discussion followed. Topics of discussion included:

- Concerns with the rationale included with the circulated motion, including in relation to its lack of neutrality, factual inaccuracies, and narrow focus on only this one specific global conflict
- Regardless of the rationale, the purpose of the motion is to recognize an urgent and devastating humanitarian crisis
- Temporary ceasefire between Gaza and Israel was issued in November 2023; perhaps the motion should be amended to call for a permanent ceasefire
- Encouragement to consider the situation in Gaza from a settler/colonialism lens
- Concern that the sentiment contained in the motion and rationale could cause harm to Israeli or Jewish students, faculty and staff

A councillor shared unease with the motion and debate, including the introduction of further rationale shared vocally during the meeting.

J. Melançon – B. McQuinn

Moved to postpone the motion to a future meeting of Council to be held in the new calendar year.

The question was called on the subsidiary motion.

43 In Favour
32 Opposed
CARRIED

6. Presentation

6.1 Sustainability Initiatives, Jocelyn Crivea, Director, Sustainability Office

Due to lack of remaining time in the scheduled meeting, J. Crivea did not make a presentation on sustainability initiatives.

In closing, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and for Council members' continued engagement.

7. Adjournment – P. Choi (10:50 a.m.)