

Item: Board of Governors Minutes, March 1981

Call Number: UA-1 27.3

Additional Notes:

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Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Governors held on this date in the Board and Senate Room at 4 p.m.

Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia
March 27, 1981

PRESENT:

Dr. A. Gordon Archibald,
Chairman
Miss Zilpha Linkletter,
Vice-Chairman
Dr. W. Andrew MacKay
Sister Elizabeth Bellefontaine
Dr. J. McD. Corston
Dr. Donna Curry
Dr. G. Ritchie Douglas
Dr. Douglas A. Eisner
Mr. Arthur G.H. Fordham
Mr. John W. Graham
Mr. Alan G. Hayman

Dr. Lorraine Laurence
Ms. Marilyn MacDonald
Mr. Kenneth McFarlane
Mr. Stewart McInnes
Mrs. Jean MacKeigan
Mr. E. Neil McKelvey
Miss Aileen A. Meagher
Mr. Gordon Owen
Mrs. Judy Sapp
Mr. Atul Sharma
Dr. R. Colin D. Stewart
Mr. Ian A. Thompson
Dr. Edwin F. Ross,
Honorary Secretary

Also present at the meeting were Mr. L.R. Shaw (Vice-President, Administration and Finance), Dr. D.M. Cameron (Executive Director, Policy and Planning), Dr. Susan Sherwin (Dalhousie Faculty Association), Dr. Roland J. Smith (Dalhousie Learned Societies Committee), Dr. G.A. Klassen (Vice-President-designate, Academic and Research).

Proposed
Schedule of
Future Meetings

Distributed at the meeting and attached to these minutes for those who were not present, was a "Proposed Schedule of Future Board Meetings" which included changes in the schedule for the remainder of this academic year and a schedule for the 1981-82 year.

On motion by Dr. MacKay, the Governors agreed that the meeting on April 23 would be a meeting of the full Board and that there would be a joint meeting of the Executive Committee and representatives of the Board and of the Senate on Thursday, May 21.

The schedule for the next academic year was left for approval at the April meeting.

Visits to
Various Parts
of the University

The President announced that he would be sending to the members of the Board an announcement of proposed visits to various parts of the University, asking them to state their preferences. It was his intention to invite also members of the Board of Directors of the Alumni and officers of the Dalhousie Women's Alumni Association.

Governor-in-
Council Appoint-
ments

Dr. MacKay invited the Governors to suggest to the Nominating Committee (the Officers of the Board) names of persons who might be recommended to the Governor-in-Council to fill the vacancies which would arise at the end of April.

Minutes

The minutes of the last regular meeting of the Board of Governors held on Thursday, February 19, were approved as circulated.

The Learned Societies Meeting in Halifax

Dr. Rowland Smith, Chairman of the Department of English and also Chairman of Dalhousie's Committee preparing for the meetings of the Learned Societies at Dalhousie in May and June, briefed the Board on this large undertaking which will have as many as 2,000 scholars on the campus in one day and up to 6,000 total visitors throughout the Conference. He said that sixty-six societies would be represented and that it was over twenty years since the meetings had been held here.

The President said that he hoped members of the Board would assist him in hosting the visitors at the daily receptions, which would be held in the Student Union Building for more than two weeks of the meetings.

Staff Matters

Chief Judge Green had met with the Staff Relations Committee during the week and they had agreed that the list of staff changes circulated at the Board meeting should be recommended for their approval. In the absence of Judge Green the President commented on the Staff Matters and secured the approval of the Board.

Dr. MacKay noted the retirement of Dr. H.B.S. Cooke, former Dean of Arts and Science, and the appointment of Dr. Fraser Nicholson as Professor Emeritus in the Faculty of Medicine.

Of particular interest was the appointment of Dr. G.A. Klassen, presently Head of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics, as Vice-President (Academic and Research), a position which had been vacant since Dr. Guy R. MacLean had left the previous summer to become the President of Mount Allison University. The President noted that Dr. Klassen's appointment was recommended with the support of an Advisory Committee of Senate in accordance with University regulations, and he expressed his own pleasure that Dr. Klassen was prepared to accept the appointment.

Benefit Committees

In the absence of Mrs. Lorraine Green, Chairman of the Staff Benefits Committee of the Board, Mr. Shaw amplified a letter which the President had written to the Chairman of the Board clarifying the "somewhat complicated current situation in regard to the Committee structure involved in University Staff Benefits matters." A copy of this letter was distributed at the meeting and will be attached to these minutes for members of the Board who were not present.

In addition to the present Staff Benefits Committee of the Board and the University Employee Benefits Committee, it was agreed on motion (MacKay/Linkletter) to reconstitute the Pension Advisory Committee which had been established under the rules of the Dalhousie University Staff Pension Scheme as approved and registered with the Minister of National Revenue. This Committee

had been dormant since the last review of the pension scheme in 1979. Included in the motion were the names of the following as the six representatives of the Board on the Pension Advisory Committee:

Mrs. Lorraine Green - Chairman
A.G.H. Fordham
Alan Hayman
G.R.K. Lynch
W.A. MacKay
L.R. Shaw
G.R. George (ex officio as Director of
Insurance and Employee Benefits)

Indexing
Pensions

The Governors had received at the meeting a copy of a letter to Mrs. Green from Mr. George titled "Indexing Pensions of Retired Staff Members". In the letter it was recommended that the Pension Advisory Committee "consider the advisability of providing pension indexing up to 2% per annum, compounded since the date of their individual retirements, for the sixty-three retired staff members", with a minimum monthly pension of \$100. A copy of Mr. George's letter will be included with the minutes for those not present.

On the recommendation of Dr. MacKay, the Board agreed that the indexing and the minimum pension be considered by the Pension Advisory Committee.

Investment
Changes

Investment changes as distributed at the meeting and attached to these minutes for those who were not present, were approved on motion (MacKay/Graham).

Arena

In the absence of Mr. Ted Brown, the Chairman of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, the President and Mr. Shaw announced that the Provincial Government had agreed to fund 80% of the \$1.2m required, in addition to the \$1m insurance money, to rebuild the rink. The remainder of the \$2.2m would be found from private contributions or from the MPHEC grants for Alterations and Renovations and Non-space capital. It was explained that the \$2.2m would leave some parts of the project incomplete, with the completion of the project to be effected through fund raising now or in the future.

It was announced that the final drawings for the rink would be ready in about ten days, that the project would then go out to tender. A final decision confirming start on the project would not be made until tenders had been received so that costs were certain.

Relations with
Other Institutions

Mr. John Graham, Chairman of the new Committee for Relations with Other Institutions, reported that his Committee had recently had its first meeting and that the President had briefed the members on the present situation with regard to relations with other institutions. He had described agreements with the University of King's College, Mount St. Vincent University and the Nova Scotia Technical College (now the Technical University of Nova Scotia).

There were also arrangements with teaching hospitals: Victoria General, the Izaak Walton Killam Childrens Hospital, the Grace Maternity Hospital, the Halifax Infirmary and the Saint John (New Brunswick) General Hospital, Mr. Graham noted.

He added that Dalhousie is linked with other Maritime universities through a computer network and through the library services which Dalhousie provides for them.

Dr. MacKay said that there are now ongoing discussions with Mount St. Vincent and Saint Mary's concerning cooperation in service and administrative functions which might help reduce the costs to each participating institution. Dr. MacKay mentioned also an "elder hostel" programme which the three universities were undertaking this summer for the "sixty plus" age group. He said that this movement was very strong in the United States.

Finally, the President said that talks had been undertaken with regard to giving extension courses in Dartmouth for part-time students.

Mr. Thompson spoke and said that, in his view, cooperation was the "wave of the future" as far as Nova Scotia universities are concerned. He said that he hoped that the plastic surface being applied to the field at Saint Mary's would be used by Dalhousie and that perhaps arrangements might be made for Saint Mary's to use DALPLEX.

Finance and
Budget Committee

Miss Linkletter, with the assistance of Mr. Shaw and the President, reported for the Finance and Budget Committee which had met the previous day. It was explained that the budget was not completed but there were certain items which needed Board discussion and approval.

With the aid of transparencies, Mr. Shaw gave a comprehensive talk on the past and present state of Dalhousie's finances and supplemented this information with a seven page summary dated March 26, titled "Preliminary Budget 81-82".

At the conclusion of Mr. Shaw's talk, the President spoke. He emphasized that the information that had been displayed, which showed the University to have a large unfunded capital debt, ought to be viewed in the proper perspective. Dalhousie would not be the major University it is today without the capital acquisitions of recent years. In some cases the University had been disappointed in the funding received from government for new buildings. In addition Dr. MacKay pointed out that the fairly recent increase and continuing high level of interest rates (now over 18% at prime rates) had made the situation much more difficult in recent months.

The President said that he hoped that the Board would urge the Officers of the University to complete the budget and bring in a much lower deficit. Miss Linkletter added that a \$2.5m deficit was not acceptable to her Committee.

Mr. Shaw had mentioned in his talk the possibility of managing endowment funds of the University to provide some relief from the costs of unfunded capital indebtedness. The President reported that the Investment Committee would be meeting to discuss this in a preliminary way and would subsequently meet jointly with the Finance and Budget Committee. Recommendations would not likely be available for some months.

In response to a question concerning the University's incurring a penalty in the amount of its grant because of accumulated operating deficits, Dr. MacKay said that there had been preliminary discussions with Dr. Catherine Wallace, Chairman of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, about the application of the MPHEC's penalty formula.

Residence Fees

Dr. Corston reported for the Student Relations and Residence Committee, recommending fee increases as shown on a sheet in the hands of the Governors (and attached to these minutes for those who were not present). It was explained that the students in the residences themselves had agreed to a new increased price for the food while the room rental was determined by the increased cost of operating the residences. The fees were approved on motion (Corston/Linkletter). It was agreed on motion (Linkletter/MacKay) that the Finance and Budget Committee make a final decision on tuition fees in order that students might be advised as soon as possible, subject to ratification by the Board in April.

In answer to a question as to how students would be consulted in the setting of the fees, it was explained that the Administration would put together proposals for the Finance and Budget and Student Relations Committees and would provide an opportunity for student representatives to comment on the proposals in those Committees and at the Board.

Dalhousie Fund Council

Mr. Stewart McInnes announced that the Fund Council would be reporting on a programme of fund raising at the May meeting.

Report from the President

Dr. MacKay reported on visits to Alumni in Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal during which he said there were "reasonably good turnouts". He said that they were pleasant occasions and that he hoped to make them a regular feature. He now planned to visit Maritime Alumni groups as soon as possible.

The President noted that the Chairman of the Board had recently received a fellowship from the Canadian Y.M.C.A., about which he believed the members of the Board would be pleased to know.

Bank Resolutions

The Board approved two banking resolutions, in usual bank form, for the Bank of Nova Scotia in Halifax and New York. Copies of the resolutions approved are appended to these minutes.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6 p.m. and was followed by a small reception in the Board Room.

Edwin F. Ross
Honorary Secretary