



**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**Approved Minutes of the Meeting (Open Session)  
held on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.  
Macdonald Building, University Hall**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Larry Stordy (Chair), Jay Abbass, Michelle Awad, Ramz Aziz, John Baxter, Barrie Black, Joyce Carter, Wadih Fares, Richard Florizone, Elaine Gibson, Bob Hanf, Rebecca Haworth, John Hutton, Laurie Jennings, Courtney Larkin, Lori MacLean, Naomi Metallic, Aubrey Palmetter, Alan Pinder, Sherry Porter, Rob Sobey, Jim Spatz

**NON-MEMBERS PRESENT:** Susan Brousseau (University Secretary), Martha Crago (Vice-President Research), Ian Nason (Vice-President Finance and Administration), John Newhook (Assistant Vice-President Research Services), Carolyn Watters (Provost and Vice-President Academic)

**REGRETS:** Bill Black, Anne McLellan, Paula Simon, Candace Thomas, Peter Fardy (Acting Vice President External)

**1. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by W. Fares, seconded M. Awad:

**THAT the agenda for April 21, 2015 be approved as presented.**

**The motion CARRIED.**

**2. Consent Agenda**

**2.1. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of February 10, 2015**

**THAT the minutes of the meeting held on February 10, 2015 be approved as presented.**

**Approved by CONSENT.**

**2.2. Appointment of Student Board Members**

**THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Governance and Nominating Committee, approve the appointment of Dan Nicholson as a Student Board member from May 1, 2015 to April 30, 2016, and the appointment of Anthony Saikali as a Student Board member from May 1, 2015 to April 30, 2017.**

**Approved by CONSENT.**

**2.3. 2015-16 Interim Spending Authority**

**THAT in order to allow the continued operation of the University until such time as the 2015-16 operating budget is given final approval, it is recommended that the Board of Governors authorize expenditures of up to 25% of the 2014-15 approved operating budget amounts. The President or his designate, in consultation with the Executive Committee of**

**the Board, is authorized to approve expenditures in excess of 25% in special cases to permit the orderly management of the University.**

**Approved by CONSENT.**

#### **2.4. Appointment of University Representative to Halifax Student Housing Society Board**

**THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Governance and Nominating Committee, approve the appointment of Mr. Dean Martin to replace Ms. Melissa MacKay as one of the Board's three representatives on the Board of Directors of the Halifax Student Housing Society, which operates Peter Green Hall.**

**Approved by CONSENT.**

### **3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

### **4. Chair's Report**

L. Stordy welcomed incoming student Board members, Daniel Nicholson, the incoming president of the DSU, and Anthony Saikali. Dan and Anthony will take office on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Stordy also noted this year's winners of the Governors Awards, which were presented at the Student Impact Awards on March 26<sup>th</sup>; the recipients are Owen Johnstone, Kristy McGregor-Bales, Mahbubur Rahman, Randi-Lynn Sullivan, and Lokiy Wang. Mr. Stordy also congratulated Rebecca Haworth, for recently competing at the CIS (Canadian Interuniversity Sport) national track and field championships, winning a silver medal in high jump. As well, Rebecca received the CIS Student-Athlete Community Service Award, and also the President's Award and the Most Valuable Player for Women's Track and Field at the recent Dalhousie Black & Gold Athletic Awards.

Mr. Stordy went on to note that Fred Fountain has concluded his term as Chancellor and the new chancellor, the Honourable Anne McLellan, will officially be installed as Dalhousie's seventh chancellor at the afternoon convocation ceremony on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Lastly, Mr. Stordy acknowledged, on behalf of the Board, the contributions of the retiring student members, Ramz Aziz and John Hutton, who will conclude their terms on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **5. President's Report**

R. Florizone highlighted several items in his report, including an update on the Facebook incident in the Faculty of Dentistry where he spoke to the broad response that is underway to address the culture within the Faculty and determine the outcomes for the 13 members of the Facebook group. It was noted that the Academic Standards Class Committee (ASCC) determined that each of the 13 members of the Facebook group could return to clinic on a conditional basis. The ASCC continues its work and will assess each student individually before making a recommendation for graduation. Currently, they expect some, but not all, members of the Facebook group to graduate this spring.

Dr. Florizone also reported on a variety of other matters, including student enrolment projections for 2015-16 (expected to increase by 1% overall); the submission of the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) application; recent positive fundraising results, including a record donations to the Annual Fund in 2014-15; and several key capital projects that are now underway and will provide updated facilities for Dalhousie and contribute to an improved student experience.

Dr. Florizone noted that Dalhousie is in the process of conducting several administrative and academic searches and reviews, including a search for Vice President Advancement, the review of the Provost and Vice President Academic, and several decanal searches and reviews.

Dr. Florizone also noted the upcoming spring convocation ceremonies which will provide an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of Dalhousie's graduates and recognize the outstanding individuals who will receive honorary degrees at that time.

## **6. Dalhousie Student Union President's Report**

R. Aziz highlighted a variety of items in his report, including the current transition of responsibilities between the current and incoming DSU Executive members, meetings with Dalhousie Security and Halifax police to discuss racist and sexist graffiti on campus and planning for an anti-graffiti campaign, the upcoming signing of a new Memorandum of Agreement with Dalhousie concerning the Student Union Building (SUB) and financing documents in connection with the planned SUB renovation project, the work of the DSU on fossil fuel divestment respecting its own investments, the Zero Tuition Canada campaign, and ongoing support required for the Peer Mental Health Support Program.

## **7. Items for Discussion**

### **7.1. Budget Advisory Committee Final Report LII (Including Report on Student Fee Consultations)**

C. Watters, Provost and Vice President, Academic, reported on the work of the Budget Advisory Committee and its Report LII, which presents the draft Operating Budget Plan for 2015-16.

Following the presentation, there were several questions from Board members focused on the possibility of adding a line item in the budget for graduate program funding, the use of reserve funds and the sustainability of the current budget model. On the last point, Dr. Watters noted that there are different ways to allocate the budget to costs, but this does not significantly change the outcome in that the University has more expenses than revenue. In these circumstances the questions become "What do we want Dalhousie to be?" It is unlikely that the Dalhousie community would want to have the cheapest faculty or the lowest level of scholarships, so perhaps it is looking at different ways of providing programs, for example. She commented that the issue is not the budget model itself, but rather the largest context, and that means that people need to think more clearly about how we define the academic mission and the support for this. I. Nason noted that two other ways to increase revenue are through fundraising, which is an important component, and the introduction of new academic programs that are revenue-generating. R. Florizone noted that some of this discussion is consistent with the Strategic Direction document which talks about the development of a multi-year budget plan. He noted that there is, unfortunately, no "silver" bullet to resolve these issues; the budget model really involves a series of compromises when there is not strong funding support from government. Dr. Watters responded that the University needs to align its academic plan with Faculty and unit budgets. This will likely take 2-3 years, but Dalhousie needs to ensure this alignment so that Faculties and units can achieve their academic goals.

In response to a question on where students can best focus their desire to be advocates for university funding and reduced student tuition, there was discussion of pressures the provincial government is facing with its own budget, particularly with rising healthcare costs, and the potential opportunity for universities, students and other stakeholders to work together to push for a return to a greater role for the federal government in post-secondary education.

## **8. Items for Decision**

### **Operations**

#### **8.1. 2015-2016 Student Fee Proposals**

M. Awad, Chair of the Operations Committee, introduced the motion. R. Aziz spoke briefly to the increasing worry for students over rising tuition costs.

#### **8.1.1.Tuition and Facilities Renewal Fees**

Moved by M. Awad, seconded by A. Palmeter:

**THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Operations Committee, approve the 2015-16 tuition fees as presented in the attached tuition fee schedule for 2015-16<sup>1</sup> including:**

**A 3% general tuition fee increase applied to tuition fees for all programs and the international differential fee effective April 2015. Note that fees for students in MSc Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy will be frozen at 2006-07 levels.**

**The motion CARRIED.**  
(R. Aziz and J. Hutton opposed).

Moved by M. Awad, seconded by A. Palmeter:

**THAT the Operations Committee recommends to the Board of Governors approval of a 3% increase in the auxiliary fee for facilities renewal to \$84.35 per term for full time students effective April 2015.**

**The motion CARRIED.**  
(R. Aziz and J. Hutton opposed).

#### **8.1.2.Auxiliary Fees**

Moved by M. Awad, seconded by A. Palmeter:

**THAT the Board of Governors on the recommendation of the Operations Committee approve the Auxiliary fee changes for 2015-16 as presented.**

**The motion CARRIED.**  
(C. Larkin abstaining)

#### **8.1.3.Student Services Fee**

Moved by M. Awad, seconded by A. Palmeter:

**THAT the Board of Governors on the recommendation of the Operations Committee approve the 2015-16 Student Services fees as follows:**

**The Student Services fees for all Halifax campus students be increased by:**

- **\$4.32 per term for a full-time student,**
- **\$2.87 for a full-time summer student, and**
- **\$1.22 for part-time students in fall, winter and summer terms.**

**The Student Services fees for professional faculties on the Halifax campus be increased by \$8.64 per 8-month period for full-time students in Medicine and Dentistry.**

**The Student Services fees for the Agriculture campus students be increased by:**

- \$3.90 per term for a full-time student,
- \$2.45 for a full-time summer student, and
- \$0.80 for part-time students in fall, winter and summer terms.

The motion CARRIED.

#### **8.1.4. Residence and Food Services Fees**

Moved by M. Awad, seconded by A. Palmetter:

**That the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Operations Committee, approve the 2015-16 residence room and meal plan rate schedule as presented.**

The motion CARRIED.

#### **8.1.5. Student Fee Proposals**

Board members agreed to deal with these motions together.

Moved by M. Awad, seconded by A. Palmetter:

**THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Operations Committee, approve a reduction in the DSU fee by \$1.50 per full-time student per semester and \$1 per part-time student commencing in the 2015 summer semester.**

The motion CARRIED.

**THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Operations Committee, approve an increase of \$17.00 to the DSU Health and Dental Plan Fee (from \$253.00 to \$270.00) for all students, with the exception of students at the Agricultural campus.**

The motion CARRIED.

**THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Operations Committee, approve an increase to the Dalhousie Agricultural Student Association Fee of \$1.46 per full-time student per semester ( from \$73 to \$74.46) and \$0.72 per part-time student per semester (from \$36 to \$36.72).**

The motion CARRIED.

**THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Operations Committee, approve the implementation of an increase to the DalOUT fee of \$0.25 per full-time student (to \$0.50), per semester and the implementation of a new fee of \$0.25 per part-time student, per semester on the Halifax campuses.**

The motion CARRIED.

**THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Operations Committee, approve the implementation of a new fee for the Dalhousie Outdoors Society of \$0.50 per full-time student, per semester and \$0.25 per part-time student, per semester on the Halifax campuses.**

The motion CARRIED.

**THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Operations Committee approve of:**

- **the continuation of the South House fee at \$3.00 per full-time student, per semester and \$1.50 per part-time student, per semester for the fall and winter semesters on the Halifax campuses; and**
- **an increase to the fee for the summer semester of \$1.43 for full-time students and \$0.83 for part-time students on the Halifax campuses.**

**The motion CARRIED.**

#### **8.1.6.Metro Transit U-Pass Fee Increase**

Moved by M. Awad, seconded by A. Palmetoer:

**THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Operations Committee, approve the 2015-16 U-Pass fee of \$151.40 for full-time (fall/winter) students (pro-rated to \$75.70 for the winter and summer terms), effective for the Fall term 2015.**

**The motion CARRIED.**

L. Stordy thanked departing students for their attendance at the meeting and for the respectful way in which they conducted themselves during the consideration of these matters.

#### **8.2 Tupper Energy Performance Project – Board 2 Approval and Approval of Financing Arrangements (from CPFC and Operations)**

W. Fares introduced the motion as per the materials. M. Awad commented briefly on the financial aspect of the matter as considered by the Operations Committee. I. Nason responded to brief questions of clarification on the guarantee.

Moved by W. Fares, seconded by M. Awad:

**That the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Capital Projects & Facilities Committee and the Operations Committee, approve the expenditure of a sum not to exceed \$12.6M, for the implementation of the proposed scope for the Tupper Energy Performance Project (Board 2 Approval), to be paid for using \$2.9M in Facilities Renewal funding and \$9.7M to be financed through an internal loan to be funded from savings in energy costs for the building.**

**The motion CARRIED.**

#### **8.3 IDEA Building Project (Board 1 Approval)**

W. Fares presented the motion as per the materials. Questions focused on the consideration of non-gender washrooms and the impact of snow loads on adjacent buildings. R. Aziz requested that the efforts of students, particularly Elizabeth Croteau and Dan Smith, in helping to move this project forward be noted.

Moved by W. Fares, seconded by B. Hanf:

**THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Capital Projects & Facilities**

**Committee, approve the expenditure of a sum not to exceed \$350k for the completion of the Design Phase of the IDEA Building Project with a project budget not to exceed \$19M (Board 1 Approval).**

**The motion CARRIED.**

## **9. Items for Information**

### **9.1. Annual Report on Research**

Dr. John Newhook, Associate Vice-President Research, presented the Research report, highlighting Dalhousie's research activity and performance over the last several years, including strengths, areas for improvement and where it sits among the U15 group of comparator universities in terms of performance. Dr. Newhook noted that the internal and external data now available to Dalhousie allows the university to better understand its strengths and the areas where growth is needed; this analysis is very important in moving forward on the university's strategic priorities with respect to research.

Discussion and questions followed the presentation, with particular focus on issues such as the need to align with provincial priorities in terms of increasing funding, the more recent focus on collaborative research by granting agencies, industry funding and Dalhousie's work on strategies to improve its tech transfer, and the funding that would be needed for Dalhousie to improve its research position. As a member of the U15, Dalhousie has the lowest funding support.

### **9.2. Board Standing Committee Reports**

There were no questions or comments on standing committee reports included in the meeting materials.

## **10. In Camera Session**

The Board moved to an *in camera* session.

## **11. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

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Lawrence Stordy, Chair

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Joyce Carter, Honorary Secretary