

Item: Board of Governors Minutes, March 2005
Call Number: UA-1

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BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
Dalhousie University
March 22, 2005

MINUTES

Members Present: Alison Archibald, Jamie Baillie, Bill Black, Robert Chisholm, Lorne Clarke, Jim Cowan, David Craig, Ezra Edelstein, Mo El-Hawary, Jay Forbes, Lynn Irving, Cathy MacNutt, Sunny Marche, Curtis McGrath, Don Mills, Robert Radchuck, Suzanne Rosson, Michael Shepherd, Jim Spatz, Bruce Towler, Tom Traves.

Also Present: Carl Breckenridge, Larry Maloney, Bryan Mason, Eric McKee, Ian Nason, Michael Roughneen, Sam Scully, Kim Thomson, Jim Vibert, Gillian Wood, Catherine Young and Susan Zinck.

Regrets: Elizabeth Beale, Wesley Cambell, Murray Coolican, Richard Goldbloom, Daurene Lewis, Don Mills and Alasdair Sinclair.

Absent: Kevin Grundy,

Approval of Proposed Agenda

1. The proposed agenda was approved as circulated.

2. Approval of Board Minutes

The Minutes of the February 14, 2005 meeting were approved as circulated.

3. Report of the Chair

Jim Cowan recognized four outstanding students by presenting each of them with Board of Governors' Awards. Established in 1992 to mark the 125th anniversary of the Dalhousie Student Union, the Governors' Awards recognize students' contributions to the quality and vitality of the University and to the achievement of its mission through their academic accomplishments and involvement in other aspects of university life. Each year, up to four awards are given, and this year the following students were recognized and received their placques in person:

Philip Doiron, Moncton, NB, was honoured for his student leadership in the College of Pharmacy. As a student, he was Social Director and served as Student Pharmacy Vice-President and President. His long record of community service includes volunteer service at an AIDS clinic in South Africa last summer.

Marc Douglas, Richmond, BC, is a student in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, majoring in history. Marc was honored for several contributions, including acting as Senior Residence Assistant at Howe Hall. He has demonstrated leadership and initiative by starting a volunteer snow shoveling campaign, linking students in residence with neighbours in need of snow clearing assistance, greatly improving relations with the university's neighbours.

The third winner, **Oghomwen Ehigie**, hails from Lagos, Nigeria. This undergraduate student in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (major in philosophy and sociology and social anthropology) is saluted for contributions to the internationalization of the campus. As a visiting student at Oxford University, she created such a positive impression of our university that she helped establish a formal study abroad program at Oxford for Dalhousie students.

The fourth student, **Timothy Wiley**, is an undergraduate student in the Faculty of Science, majoring in Biology. The St. Catherines, Ontario, native is accomplished on the playing field and in the classroom. This fourth-year starter for the Men's Volleyball Tigers has a 4.1 Grade Point average, has been a four-year Atlantic University Sport all-star and served as team captain for two years.

Following the presentations, Chair James Cowan then went on to report that over the last ten years, great efforts have been made to improve governance at the university and make board service constructive and interesting to members of the Board of Governors. With that in mind, Maureen Reid of Boardworks has been interviewing Board members for ideas on potential improvements. Ms. Reid will give her presentation on suggested changes to the Board during the April meeting. Materials will be circulated in advance before Ms. Reid's report. Board members are encouraged to come ready to discuss any governance issues during the next meeting.

4. Report of the President

President Tom Traves stated that due to the need for more information and discussion, any final decision on both tuition fee raises and levying of auxiliary fees in the Faculty of Law would be delayed for final decision until the April 19 meeting. The findings of the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) XXXI were to be detailed more thoroughly in Dr. Sam Scully's later presentation. While a final decision was not to be taken during this meeting, Dr. Traves encouraged the Board to act as a Committee of the whole in thoroughly discussing issues later in the meeting, after Dr. Scully's presentation.

5. DSU President's Report

Mr. Curtis McGrath stated that general elections for Executive, Senate and Board representatives were held between March 8 and 10. More than 2700 students, or 18 per cent of the student population, voted. Representatives elected to serve on the Board of Governors will be appointed at the April 19 meeting.

Students voted 65 per cent in favour of collecting an \$85 fee for the establishment of a Dental Plan. Council voted unanimously to refer the results of a referendum to the Board of Governors.

The DSU hosted the Annual General Meeting of CASA, the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, during the week of March 15 to 19.

The DSU recently hosted a Post-Secondary Education Symposium with representatives from post-secondary institutions and governmental bodies from across Nova Scotia. Participants discussed funding, tuition, student financial aid, access, participation in and quality of post-secondary education.

The DSU made a pre-budget submission to the NS Government Standing Committee on Finance focusing on the creation of a low-income grant, increasing the debt reduction program to a \$9.9 million disbursement level, support for a pan-Canadian accord on post-secondary education and the integration and harmonization of NS/Canada student loans. The DSU also lobbied other provincial politicians on student issues.

Mr. McGrath attended a Health Canada National Youth and Young Adult forum on Tobacco Control from Feb. 25 to 27. Most of the 150 delegates at this conference were very interested in Dalhousie's Smoke Free Campus policy and asked how they could implement similar policies on their own campuses.

Mr. MacGrath attended a Town Hall Forum in the Faculty of Law, hosted by Dean Dawn Russell, where she formally announced her intention to request an additional \$400 on top of the current \$2100 fee.

Finally, Mr. MacGrath noted that the DSU has a formal, written response to the BAC XXXI report which he will reveal after Dr. Scully's presentation.

6. BAC XXXI Report

Vice-President and Provost Sam Scully detailed the general results of the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) XXXI report. Dr. Scully said that the Memorandum of Understanding, signed early this year, helps the university by providing it with consistent increases in the operating grant for the next three years. During that time, the university will see its operating grant increase by \$17 million. In exchange, Dalhousie undertook to limit tuition fee raises to 3.9 per cent per year for most programs. Programs in Medicine (MD), Dentistry (DDS), Law (LL.B.), MD/Msc (Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery), full-cost recovery programs and international student differential fees are expressly exempt from this ceiling.

In creating a new budget, Dr. Scully noted that two factors are of paramount importance: creating a balanced budget and an increase in funding to meet strategic initiatives. Dr. Scully also noted that all figures cited are based on a yearly increase of 150 students, which is more conservative than previous estimates.

The BAC XXXI recommendations were:

- 1) A 2005-6 general tuition increase of between 3.6 to 3.9 per cent for all programs with several exceptions noted later
- 2) The 2005-6 tuition rates in the MD, DDS and MD/MSc (Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery) and LL.B programs increase by 9.28 percent and that student bursaries in those programs be increased by \$110,000.
- 3) An increase in the differential fee of \$810 per year, in lieu of the general increase of 3.9 per cent. In addition, the BAC recommends that \$210,000 in strategic initiatives funding be allocated to support international students as follows: the Graduate Scholarship budget will be allocated \$105,000 to offset the differential increase (in excess of 3.9 per cent) to students in thesis programs and \$55,000 will be allocated to international student bursaries for students in other programs. Additionally, \$50,000 will be added for enhanced international student services.
- 4) An increase in the facilities renewal auxiliary fee of \$1 for full-time students, with no increase to part-time students. Resulting revenues would be directed to support increased expenditures on renewal projects.
- 5) Increased strategic expenditure allocations in 2005-6 totaling \$3,300,000 to be distributed in particular areas. These include increases in student assistance, student services, IT resources and facilities renewal.

The Budget Advisory Committee also proposed that faculties and other budget units implement cost reductions in their units of 1.3 per cent and .6 per cent respectively. The BAC also recommends that Facilities Management, UCIS and Student Services be excluded from that adjustment.

Dr. Scully noted that there are four principles behind the tuition increases: a) cost of delivering the program b) job prospects on graduation c) comparative fee information from other universities and d) demand for the program. He also noted that the BAC needs to do more in the university community to explain its work in detail and justify its conclusions.

Senate Chair Mohamed El-Hawary then brought forward a motion from the Senate Meeting of March 14, 2005 – that both the Chair of the Senate and the DSU President bring forward concerns expressed at that meeting about the BAC XXXI report. Specifically, Dr. El-Hawary cited deficiencies of information in the report and detailed the adverse effects these tuition hikes would have on international students and students in Law and Medicine. Prof. El-Hawary noted that the 1.25 hour discussion in Senate focused on the hardships created on professional and international students. He said that “as responsible governors who want to do what’s best for the university,” more information needs to be considered before a final decision is made. Dr. El-Hawary personally noted that he is concerned at a lack of proportionality -- that 13.5 per cent of students will bear the brunt of the tuition increase. His personal point of view was that a 3.9 per cent across the board increase would be more equitable.

Next, the DSU President, Mr. MacGrath, gave the students’ formal response to BAC XXXI. The main points were:

- a) The DSU acknowledges with reluctance the necessity of increasing graduate and undergraduate tuition fee levels. It recommends that the 2005-6 tuition increase for all students – including International, Law, Medicine, Dentistry, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and LLB programs – not exceed 3.9 per cent.
- b) The DSU recommends that University officials make the \$1800 disparity between tuition fee levels in Nova Scotia and the rest of Canada a top priority when lobbying federal and provincial governments.
- c) The DSU recommends that the university disperse the remaining strategic expenditures over four years rather than three years.
- d) While acknowledging the need for entrance scholarships as a student recruitment tool, the DSU recommends that future priority in student assistance be given to additional funding to students who demonstrate financial need.
- e) The DSU asks President Traves and the Board of Governors to reexamine the mechanism by which student representation is assigned to the Budget Advisory Committee and whether having one student representative on the BAC is adequate. Further, the terms of reference for the Budget Advisory Committee should be amended to allow for the DSU to select the student representatives.

After Mr. MacGrath concluded, a lively discussion on the potential tuition and fee raises began. Many issues were raised by Governors. Among them were the sufficiency of the criteria on which the tuition hikes were based, future potential difficulty in recruiting international graduate students, the business model of the university, the effect of tuition hikes on regional retention of medical and dental personnel and, ultimately, concerns about listening to the voices of the students.

7. Student Relations and Residence Committee Report

The Board approved the following Committee recommendations:

It was moved by Sue Rosson and seconded by Sunny Marche

THAT the Student Services Fee is increased from \$82 to \$88 per term for full-time students, effective September 2005, with other fees to be adjusted accordingly.

Motion carried

It was moved by Sue Rosson and seconded by Robert Chisholm

THAT effective September 2005, fees for the Dalhousie Student Union Health Plan fee will be increased from \$155 to \$163 per year.

Motion carried

THAT effective September 2005, Dalhousie Student Union fee will increase by \$1 for full- and part-time students, from \$112 to \$113 for full-time students and \$56 to \$57 for part-time students, to include an increase in the levy collected on behalf of the Gazette Publishing Society.
Motion carried

THAT effective September 2005, a fee for the Student Association of Health Sciences Society be created in the amount of \$10 per term.
Motion carried

THAT effective September 2005, a fee for the Society of Undergraduate Planners (Bachelor of Community Design students) in the amount of \$15 per term will be levied for full-time students, \$7 for part-time students.
Motion carried

THAT effective September 2005, the fee for the Dalhousie Medical Student Society will be increased from \$41 to \$55 per year.
Motion carried

A motion concerning the creation of the Dalhousie Student Union Dental Plan was tabled until next month's meeting. Board members agreed that more information was needed on the plan before any final disposition is made.

8. Residence Rate for 2005 -06

It was moved by Sue Rosson and seconded by Bob Radchuck

THAT based on the recommendation of the Operations Committee, the Board of Governors approve the 2005-06 Residence Room and Board Rate Schedule as attached.
Motion carried

9. Alterations & Renovations and Facilities Renewal Projects

It was moved by Cathy MacNutt and seconded by Curtis McGrath

THAT based on the recommendation of the Operations Committee, the Board of Governors approve the proposed allocation of funds for 2005-06 facilities renewal projects (\$4,622,000) and Alterations and Renovations projects (\$2,073,000).
Motion carried

10. New HRM Buss Pass Fee

It was moved by Tom Traves and seconded by Curtis McGrath

THAT a fee for a Metro Transit bus pass of approximately \$115 for the combined fall and winter terms for full-time students be approved, with implementation subject to an agreement being reached with Metro Transit, and implementation details being reviewed by the Student Relations and Residence Committee.
Motion carried

11. Interim Spending Authority

On the recommendation of the Operations Committee, it was moved by Cathy MacNutt and seconded by Mo El-Hawary

THAT in order to allow the continued operation of the University until such time as the 2005-06 operating budget is given final approval, the Board of Governors authorize expenditures

of up to 25% of the 2005-06 operating budget plan amounts as presented in the BAC XXXI report. The President or his designate is authorized to approve expenditures in excess of 25% in special cases to permit the orderly management of the university.

Motion carried

At this point, the Board of Governors began considering a pension-related issue *in camera* and then following motion was moved by Tom Traves and seconded by Robert Radchuck

THAT the Board of Governors rescind its 16 December 2003 motion which read as follows:

Effective 1 July 2005 for purposes of administration of the Plan a Member shall be deemed to have retired from Dalhousie University if the Member terminates employment with Dalhousie University after the age of 55 and the Member is then entitled to an immediate pension benefit.

Motion carried

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Jim Cowan, Chair

The meetings of the Board of Governors are recorded and the tapes are available for review in the office of the Secretary for two years from the date of the meeting.