

Item: Board of Governors Minutes, April 2010
Call Number: UA-1

Additional Notes:

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BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Approved Minutes of the Meeting (Open Session) held on Tuesday, April 20, 2010 University Hall, Macdonald Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Spatz (Chair), Jay Abbass, Jamie Baillie, Nancy Barkhouse, Robert Chisholm, Janet Conrad, Wadih Fares, Fred Fountain, Lloyd Fraser, Adam Harris, Sarah MacDonald, George McLellan, Lawrence Stordy, Gail Tomblin Murphy, Bruce Towler, Tom Traves, Jim Wilson, Shannon Zimmerman, and S. Brousseau (University Secretary)

REGRETS: Michelle Awad, Andrew Bennett, William Black, Lynn Irving, Nancy MacCready-Williams, Chris Smith, Jennifer Smith, Stan Spavold

NON-MEMBERS: Ken Burt, Martha Crago, Floyd Dykeman, Terry Mitchell, Bonnie Neuman, Alan Shaver, and Katie Smith (University Secretariat, Minute Taker)

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by J. Baillie, seconded by J. Abbass:

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

The motion CARRIED.

2. Consent Agenda

No requests were received to move items from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda.

Moved by W. Fares, seconded by S. Zimmerman:

THAT items 2.1-2.4 be approved by *Consent*.

The motion CARRIED.

2.1 Approval of Minutes of Meeting of February 16, 2010

Motion: **THAT the minutes of the meeting held on February 16, 2010 be approved as circulated.**

Approved by *Consent*.

2.2 Appointment of Student Board Member

Motion: **THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Governance Committee, approve the appointment of Chris Saulnier as a student Board Member from May 1, 2010 to April 30, 2011.**

Approved by *Consent*.

2.3 National Advisory Council – Name Change

Motion: **THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Governance Committee, approve the change in name of the National Advisory Council to the Dalhousie Advisory Council, and that the Terms of Reference for the National Advisory Council (approved by the Board in February 2007), be amended as presented to reflect this change in name and international perspective.**

Approved by *Consent*.

2.4 Interim Spending Authority

Motion: **THAT in order to allow the continued operation of the University until such time as the 2010-11 operating budget is given final approval, the Board of Governors authorize expenditures of up to 25% of the 2009-10 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*.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

A question was raised regarding the status of the Navitas proposal. Alan Shaver, Vice-President Academic and Provost, responded that a discussion paper is in preparation following the recent consultation phase and it is expected that this will be completed by the fall.

4. Chair's Report

J. Spatz reported briefly on the Executive Committee meeting that took place April 9, 2010, respecting the implementation agreement with Johnson Controls for the LSC Retrofit project. The following resolution was approved by the Committee on behalf of the Board, at that meeting:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Governors, and on the recommendation of the Operations Committee, approve an implementation agreement with Johnson Controls L.P. for completion of the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Facility Improvement Measure which is a major portion of the Life Sciences Centre Facilities Infrastructure Renewal and Sustainability Initiative.

Dr. Spatz also noted the following:

- The Governors Awards were presented to four students at a reception in their honour on March 10th. These awards are presented annually to deserving students for their exceptional contributions or leadership in the extracurricular realm. The students receiving the awards for 2010 are: Graham Carey, Jason Pooley, Jessica Roy, and Andrew Sullivan;
- Congratulations to Dr. Lloyd Fraser who was re-elected as Chair of Senate for a three-year term commencing July 1, 2010;
- Congratulations to Martha Crago, VP Research, on the recent presentation to her of the Ordre des Palmes Académiques. The award is given to French nationals as well as foreigners who have made a significant contribution to the diffusion of the French culture around the world;

- Congratulations to Gail Tomblin Murphy, Board Member and Dalhousie faculty member, for running the recent Boston Marathon.

Dr. Spatz also thanked Shannon Zimmerman, DSU President and student Board member, for her contributions over the past three years and presented her with a small token of the Board's appreciation.

5. President's Report

T. Traves presented his written report highlighting a number of issues: the transfer to the University on March 31, 2010 of the total provincial operating grant for 2010-11; the continuing work of the Advisory Committee on Pension Sustainability (ACOPS); the issue of provincial funding support for the Medical School, the expansion of the Nursing program and the Interprofessional Health Education Building; and the recent adoption by Senate of a policy statement on student ratings of instruction and plans for further consultation and work on this project over the next 12 months. He also noted that, at the request of the Dalhousie Student Union, the University has agreed to participate in Project Hero, a scholarship program dedicated to children of men and women in the Canadian services killed in Afghanistan.

In response to questions following his report, Dr. Traves provided further information concerning the recent Medical School funding issues which appear to have arisen out of misunderstandings between the provincial departments of Health and Education. The University is in discussion with the province and is attempting to have this matter rectified shortly.

6. Dalhousie Student Union President's Report

S. Zimmerman highlighted several items in her written report, including the recent meeting of the DSU with the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) to discuss BAC's latest report and, in particular, what the DSU views as a proposal to discontinue the 2% increase for the student assistance budget; the proposal to implement a new athletics and recreational facilities renewal fee and DSU recommendations for a consultation process going forward; and recent issues regarding the renovation of the new Grad House. Ms. Zimmerman noted that she has enjoyed her time on the Board immensely and thanked Board members for their contribution to this very positive experience.

7. Items for Decision

7.1 2010-2011 Student Fees

7.1.1 2010-2011 Residence Fees

R. Chisholm reported that the Operations Committee considered the proposed rate schedule at its meeting on March 31, 2010 and is recommending approval by the Board of Governors. Consultation with student representatives concerning these increases has occurred, consistent with the intent of the MOU with the Government of Nova Scotia.

It was suggested that, in future year, it would be helpful to have the fees from the current year included for comparison with the proposed new fees.

Moved by R. Chisholm, seconded by W. Fares:

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Operations Committee, approve the 2010-11 Residence Room and Board Rate Schedule as presented, consistent with the terms of the Provincial MOU.

The motion CARRIED.

7.1.2 Fitness and Recreation Facility Renewal Proposal

R. Chisholm presented the recommendation from the Operations Committee for the introduction of a new Fitness and Recreation Facility Renewal fee. It is intended that this fee would constitute a permanent student charge to be used initially to fund the new Fitness Centre on South Street and the expansion of the Sexton Campus Fitness Centre, and thereafter to support the remaining components of the fitness and recreation renewal project and, on an ongoing basis, continued renewal of Dalhousie University athletics and recreation facilities. It is intended that this fee would be implemented in the year in which the South Street Fitness Centre is open for use. The fee per student is proposed to be no more than \$180 per year.

Motion moved by R. Chisholm, seconded by J. Wilson:

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Operations Committee, approve a permanent designated Fitness and Recreation Facility Renewal fee initially to fund the New South Street Fitness Centre and the expansion of the Sexton Campus Fitness Centre, and thereafter to support the remaining components of the fitness and recreation renewal project and on an ongoing basis, continued renewal of Dalhousie University athletics and recreation facilities (excluding any associated car park). This fee shall be as outlined below and will be implemented as a charge to students in the year in which the New South Street Fitness Centre is open for use.

- **The fee will be assessed at \$90 per term for a typical full-time student registered in the fall and winter terms (i.e. a total of \$180 for full-time fall and winter students).**
- **The fee will be assessed at \$90 for the summer for those students who did not pay the fee in both of the preceding terms.**
- **Medicine, Dentistry and PGME students will be assessed \$180 per year.**

The intent of this fee is that a typical full-time student will not be charged more than \$180 per year.

AND THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Operations Committee, periodically review expenditures and plans related to the Fitness and Recreation Facility Renewal Fee, doing so on an ongoing basis at least once every 10 years.

In response to a question of clarification respecting the second bullet in the proposed motion, it was agreed that the intent of the bullet (as described in the proposal document itself), is that the fee will be assessed at \$90 for the summer for **full-time** students; it is not the intent that fee be applied to students who attend the University for a short-time in the summer, but are essentially students elsewhere.

During discussion it was proposed that an amendment be made to the motion presented.

Moved by S. Zimmerman, seconded by T. Traves:

THAT the last paragraph of the motion presented be amended to provide that the periodic review of expenditures and plans related to the Fitness and Recreation Facility Renewal Fee occur at least once every 5 years.

The motion to amend CARRIED.

The Board then voted on the amended motion:

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Operations Committee, approve a permanent designated Fitness and Recreation Facility Renewal fee initially to fund the New South Street Fitness Centre and the expansion of the Sexton Campus Fitness Centre, and thereafter to support the remaining components of the fitness and recreation renewal project and on an ongoing basis, continued renewal of Dalhousie University athletics and recreation facilities (excluding any associated car park). This fee shall be as outlined below and will be implemented as a charge to students in the year in which the New South Street Fitness Centre is open for use.

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The intent of this fee is that a typical full-time student will not be charged more than \$180 per year.

AND THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Operations Committee, periodically review expenditures and plans related to the Fitness and Recreation Facility Renewal Fee, doing so on an ongoing basis at least once every 5 years.

The motion CARRIED.

7.2 LSC Infrastructure Renewal – Strategic Opportunities Fund Inc. Loan

R. Chisholm noted that the Operations Committee reviewed this matter on March 31, 2010 and is recommending approval by the Board.

Moved by R. Chisholm, seconded by J. Abbass:

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Operations Committee, approve a 5 year term loan of \$10,205,821 from the Nova Scotia Strategic Opportunities Fund Inc. (SOFI) for the Life Sciences Centre Infrastructure Renewal and Sustainability Initiative.

The motion CARRIED.

8. Items for Presentation/Discussion

8.1 Budget Advisory Committee Report

A. Shaver updated the Board on the status of the Budget Advisory Committee process. He drew the Board's attention to the summary at the beginning of the budget model document and indicated that many of the "good news/bad news" issues raised earlier in the budget planning process are still prevalent. The big threat looming is the 2011-2012 budget, partly because of the fact that the MOU runs out in 2010-2011 and a new MOU will have to be negotiated at a time when the government is having its own budget challenges. The current document tries to lay out at least the beginnings of a perspective on the 2011-12 budget year.

During the discussion following this report, it was clarified that it is not intended to discontinue or reduce funding to student assistance, but rather to move in into the strategic initiatives area of funding, so it is a matter of changing the way the University funds student assistance, rather than a cut to this area.

T. Traves noted that this document provides a framework, but it is not the final budget. The first priority is to balance the budget and the next issue is to determine the areas of spending. The senior administrative team is mindful of the need to be as prudent as possible in its approach to the budget plan and to keep the strategic initiatives component of the budget as flexible as possible in order to respond to the challenges and opportunities that may arise. He noted that the final budget will come to the Board in June and allocations will be presented on a line-by-line basis at that time.

8.2 Campus Master Plan - Update

K. Burt reported that he had hoped to have a final version of the Campus Master Plan for the Board meeting today; however the consultants, ISI Group, were engaged at the end of March to assist the University in facilitating an understanding of what is contemplated by the Information Commons (four nodes of the Information Commons laid out in the proposed Campus Master Plan). This has caused a bit of a delay. He anticipates receiving the final draft plan by the end of the month; it will be reviewed internally over the summer and will come forward to the Board in the fall.

8.3 University Research Performance

M. Crago gave a presentation on Dalhousie University's research funding and performance over the past few years, highlighting where the University has been successful, areas where the University might look to be more successful, and steps that are proposed to strengthen Dalhousie's research program.

8.4 Dalhousie Alumni Association Report

N. Barkhouse and J. Wilson, President and Vice-President respectively of the Dalhousie Alumni Association (DAA), gave a presentation to the Board on the role, responsibilities and objectives of the Alumni Association and the current areas of focus developed under its updated strategic plan. The four areas identified are: Engaging New Alumni; Communications and Outreach; Alumni

House; and Homecoming 2010. Ms. Barkhouse and Mr. Wilson highlighted the current projects of the DAA in these areas and its plans going forward.

9. Items for Information

9.1 Board Standing Committee Reports

J. Spatz referred members to the written reports of the following Board committees: Academic Affairs and Research, Audit, Executive, Governance, Operations, and Student Experience. Dr. Spatz provided Board members with a brief overview of the mandate and responsibilities of the Board Executive and Steering committees.

IN CAMERA SESSION

The Board moved *in camera* for the remainder of the meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.