



## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

**Approved Minutes of the Meeting (Open Session)  
held on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.  
Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Larry Stordy (Chair), Ian Bezanson, Joyce Carter, Wadih Fares, Richard Florizone, Jody Forsyth (via telephone), Rebecca Haworth, Kevin Hewitt, Courtney Larkin (via telephone), Lori MacLean, Anne McLellan, Naomi Metallic, Daniel Nicholson, Audrey Palmeter, Anthony Saikali, Paula Simon (via telephone), Candace Thomas, Gail Tomblin Murphy

**NON-MEMBERS PRESENT:** Martha Crago (Vice-President Research), Peter Fardy (Vice President Advancement), Ian Nason (Vice-President Finance and Administration), Carolyn Watters (Provost and Vice-President Academic), Susan Brousseau (University Secretary)

**REGRETS:** Michelle Awad, Cassandra Dorrington, Elaine Gibson, Bob Hanf, Laurie Jennings, Sherry Porter, Rob Sobey, Michele Williams

**GUESTS:** Andrea Power (Associate Secretary, Senate)

### 1. Approval of Agenda

Moved by A. Palmeter, seconded by J. Carter:

**THAT the agenda for February 9, 2016 be approved as presented.**

**The motion CARRIED.**

### 2. Consent Agenda

#### 2.1. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of November 24, 2015

Motion: **THAT the minutes of the meeting held on November 24, 2015 be approved as presented.**

**Approved by CONSENT**

#### 2.2 Search Committee for AVP Research

Motion: **THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Governance and Nominating Committee, approve the appointment of Bob Hanf to the Search Committee for the Associate Vice-President, Research effective immediately.**

**Approved by CONSENT**

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

There was no business arising from the minutes.

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

L. Stordy extended congratulations to Naiomi Metallic on the recent announcement that she has accepted a full-time tenure track position with the Schulich School of Law, effective July 1st. Ms. Metallic will step down from the Board on June 30, 2016.

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

R. Florizone highlighted various matters from his written report, including recent enrolment data and continuing work on retention strategies; he noted that Dalhousie is projecting constant enrolment for 2016-17, but there are some risks within certain populations that contribute to enrolment numbers. Dr. Florizone also spoke to current budget challenges and the issues contributing to the proposals for increases to tuition fees. Other items noted included the appointment of Ms. Norma Williams as the new Executive Director of Diversity and Inclusiveness, the just-announced appointment of Dr. Arig al Shaibah as the Vice-Provost Student Affairs (effective April 1<sup>st</sup>), progress on a number of capital projects and positive fund-raising results. Dr. Florizone also noted the recent announcement from the province respecting funding for the Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarship program, and the visit to campus earlier in the day of Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, Navdeep Bains, and Minister Scott Brison, President of the Treasury Board, to announce the university's new Canada Research Chairs.

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

D. Nicholson noted the presence of students at the meeting and spoke to student opposition to the proposed tuition fee hikes for 2016-17. He asked Board members to consider this information and the opportunity for Dalhousie to be a leader with respect to fees. Mr. Nicholson spoke to student concerns that the current system is not working and that covering budget shortfalls by increasing tuition is not sustainable. He noted that students have proposed the preparation of more than one version of the draft budget so that other options could be reviewed for comparison purposes. He also noted that students have not always felt that the budget consultations are meaningful or that the alternative budgets proposed by the DSU are given due consideration.

Discussion and questions following the report focused on the broader picture and what universities and students can do to address this. It was noted that universities need to come together to be a proponent or champion with government in this area. It was also noted that students can be an important voice in this conversation. Speakers noted that it is particularly important to come together to advance these issues with the federal government.

### **7. Items for Information**

#### **7.1 Budget Advisory Committee Draft Report**

C. Watters gave a presentation on the draft report of the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC), and the initial recommendations for the 2016-17 operating budget. Following the presentation, Dr. Watters responded to questions from members on various elements of the draft budget, including other options considered by BAC for balancing the budget (such as use of reserve funds). Other questions and comments focused on several issues, including mental health concerns for students as a result of the increasing costs for post-secondary education, and fund-raising opportunities for increasing financial support for particularly vulnerable students. Members also requested clarification on the

current budget situation for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and measures proposed to address this. K. Hewitt, Chair of Senate, also noted what he perceives as the false dichotomy of employee compensation vs. tuition fees; he noted that faculty compensation appears as a significant burden on the budget expenditure side without the acknowledgement that faculty members also bring in research funding that helps to fund students and infrastructure. C. Watters agreed that the ability to attract and retain excellent faculty is key to the University's quality, but noted the difficult and competing pressures to balance the budget.

At the conclusion of the discussion, there was a query with respect to the potential for a task force to look at the unsustainability of the current system. R. Florizone responded that the goals have been to keep costs down below the national average, to work diligently on the scholarship and grants element in terms of increasing fund-raising directed to this area, and to work to maintain modest enrolment increases. He agreed that there may also be room to look at the broader landscape.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Dr. Watters outlined the consultation phase that will take place over the next several weeks.

### **7.2 Board Standing Committee Report**

There were no questions or comments on the committee reports circulated to members.

### **8. In Camera Session**

The Board moved to an *in camera* session.

### **9. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

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Lawrence Stordy, Chair

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Joyce Carter, Honorary Secretary