

Item: Board of Governors Minutes, November 2007
Call Number: UA-1

Additional Notes:

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BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Approved Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, November 27, 2007 University Hall, Macdonald Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cathy MacNutt (Vice-Chair), Elizabeth Beale, Level Chan, Robert Chisholm, Lorne Clarke, Richard Evans, Lloyd Fraser, Nancy MacCready-Williams, Sunny Marche, Don Mills, David Russell, Chris Smith, Jim Spatz, Lawrence Stordy, Mike Tipping, Bruce Towler, Tom Traves, Jim Wilson, Shannon Zimmerman, and Susan Brousseau (University Secretary)

REGRETS: Jay Abbass, Jamie Baillie, William Black, James Cowan, Richard Goldbloom, Lynn Irving, Robert Radchuck

NON-MEMBERS: Carl Breckenridge, Ken Burt, Floyd Dykeman, Donna Gillis, Kevin Grundy, Jeff Lamb, Ryan MacNutt, Patrick Moriarty, Bonnie Neuman, Alan Shaver

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by B. Towler, seconded by S. Marche:

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.

The motion was CARRIED.

2. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held on October 16, 2007

Moved by B. Towler, seconded by J. Wilson:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on October 16, 2007 be approved as distributed.

The motion was CARRIED.

3. Chair's Report

In the absence of Board Chair James Cowan, Vice-Chair Cathy MacNutt served as Chair for the meeting. She conveyed Mr. Cowan's apologies that he was not able to be present for the meeting today.

Ms. MacNutt also noted that the University has received notification that the appointment of L. Stordy, and the reappointments of B. Black, R. Chisholm, J. Spatz and B. Towler, to the Board have received Governor in Council approval.

4. President's Report

T. Traves noted that the seating arrangement for the meeting is a trial set-up to explore whether there is a possible arrangement that might create a more intimate setting for the Board that is conducive to discussion and interaction. If it is determined that this set-up is workable, appropriate supports in

terms of audio visual and other equipment will be explored. Board members are encouraged to provide feedback on the arrangement.

Dr. Traves commented briefly on upcoming discussions with the provincial government around a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Over the past few months, the finance vice-presidents of the various universities have met with government representatives to map out a three-year plan for a cost structure for the universities and to identify issues that will need to be addressed during the upcoming discussions. There will be nine people at the table for negotiations: three university presidents (including T. Traves as one representative), three student representatives (including past Board member and DSU President, Ezra Edelstein), and three government representatives.

Dr. Traves also reported on federal and provincial reviews of student aid that are currently underway or about to begin. There have been on-going discussions between both levels of government aimed at creating greater efficiencies and addressing overlap in student aid programs in Canada. The principal vehicle for federal government involvement in student aid is through the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation which was set up several years ago with a multi-billion dollar endowment. The expectation at the time of its creation was that these funds would be spent down over about five years. Over the past number of years, the Millennium program has contributed \$350 million annually to student aid funding, mostly in the form of grants to students with financial needs. Dalhousie students have received \$15 million to \$18 million a year from the Foundation. Funding for the Foundation is about to expire and this raises questions around the future of the Foundation and the aid it provided. The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) is advocating for an increase in this funding, but, at a minimum, the maintenance of the status quo.

Dr. Traves outlined the three issues that the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada will focus on in the coming year, in terms of providing input to the federal government for next year's budget: funding for research activities; increased support for the indirect costs of research; and increased funding for graduate students.

5. Dalhousie Student Union President's Report

M. Tipping referred members to his report circulated at the meeting. He reported that he attended the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) annual Lobby Conference in Ottawa last week where the focus was largely on the future of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation. He noted that CASA supports the funding and the mechanism of the Foundation and believes it has been incredibly effective. Mr. Tipping noted that 95% of the Foundation grants are needs-based dispersals and that it operates with only 3-4% going to overhead costs. He noted that MPHEC has reported that about 38% of Nova Scotia students who receive financial aid receive a Millennium Scholarship grant and that it is the largest factor in reducing student debt in the Maritimes.

Mr. Tipping also noted that the DSU recently received news that the province will begin a review of student financial aid in Nova Scotia. This news is very welcome and something that local student organizations have been requesting for some time. Two consultation meetings have taken place thus far and a forum takes place this evening at Dalhousie.

6. Facilities Renewal Budget 2008-09

J. Spatz, Chair of the Operations Committee, noted that proposed facilities renewal budget is a preliminary budget for 2008-09. The first motion is directed to approving the proposed projects greater than \$250,000 and the second is to authorize spending in advance of the final budget

approval. K. Burt noted that the Board approved a new process for approving facilities renewal spending last winter and this is the first time moving through this process.

MOTION 1:

Moved by J. Spatz, seconded by E. Beale:

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Operations Committee, approve the funding for the following list of proposed Facilities Renewal Projects greater than \$250k for 2008-09

1) Chemical Storage Facility	\$ 1,000k
2) Dentistry Room 4116/7 modifications	\$ 250k
3) Campus Master Plan development	\$ 400k
4) Coburg Tower	\$ 1,000k
5) Dunn Roof replacement	\$ 450k
6) Tupper Link Roof replacement	\$ 330k
7) Forrest Bldg Exterior restoration	\$ 250k
8) Chemistry Water Main replacement	\$ 330k
9) Weldon Transformer replacement	\$ 350k
10) Killam Transformer replacement	\$ 450k
Contingency	\$ 1,025k

The motion was CARRIED.

MOTION 2:

Moved by S. Marche, seconded by J. Wilson:

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Operations Committee, approve spending of up to \$6.9m for Facilities Renewal in 2008/09 (which represents 75% of the 2007/08 Facilities Renewal Budget and which will be adjusted upon adoption of the 2008-09 Board approved budget as per the Facilities Renewal budget process approved by the Board in February 2007).

The motion was CARRIED.

7. Performance Management Overview

Alan Shaver, Vice-President Academic and Provost, gave a presentation on the academic hiring process, the normal markers in an academic career, and the various internal and external reviews and evaluations that occur during career progression. This presentation originated out of a need for the Academic Affairs and Research Committee to understand the hiring process in order to approve staff matters on behalf of the Board, and also a recent question at the Board level regarding the

number of faculty members who had a career development review in the previous year. Dr. Shaver addressed a variety of questions from Board members throughout the presentation.

8. Risk Management Update

B. Towler, Chair of the Audit Committee, reminded Board members that the University introduced an internal audit function two years ago. Part of the mandate of the internal auditor, and one of the tasks assigned last fall, was to conduct an overall review and assessment of risk, looking at all facets of risk, including financial, physical, environmental, reputational, etc. The Internal Auditor met with the President and Vice-Presidents to identify and assess potential risks in the various categories and to assign some value to those in terms of likelihood and impact. An interim report has now been prepared with a final report expected next spring. K. Burt, Vice-President Finance and Administration, then made a brief presentation on the objectives of the process, the work to date and the plan going forward from this point. The focus this year has been on strategic risk management and the ability of the institution to meet its strategic objectives. He noted that, as part of this review, it is desirable to develop an internal and on-going discipline for managing risks in the University's planning processes. Mr. Burt noted that he anticipates that, in future, the Board will receive an annual report on risk management which will review the work of the previous year and measure progress towards improving the risks identified.

9. Standing Committee Reports

Committee chairs offered brief comments on their written reports. R. Chisholm, Chair of the Student Experience Committee, noted that the Committee had met just prior to the Board meeting. He noted that the Committee is looking closely at the student retention data and plans to continue to probe that issue. He also noted that the Committee is scheduled to meet with student society representatives in February as part of its on-going plan of hearing directly from students at least once a year. In response to the discussion of student experience, D. Mills noted that he attended the Vanier Cup this past weekend and was struck once again by the enormous spirit and support that the football team generates for the campus community and alumni. He commented on the significant impact that a successful athletic program can have on retention and reputation and that this is perhaps worthy of some discussion at a future meeting.

The remainder of the Board meeting was held *in camera*. During this session the Board approved a motion approving the listing for sale or lease of Fenwick Place, consistent with the University policy on Purchase and Sale of Real Property.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.