

Item: Board of Governors Minutes, April 2008
Call Number: UA-1

Additional Notes:

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BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Approved Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, April 15, 2008 University Hall, Macdonald Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Cowan (Chair), Jay Abbass, Jamie Baillie, Level Chan, Richard Evans, Lloyd Fraser, Lynn Irving, Cathy MacNutt, Sunny Marche, Robert Radchuck, David Russell, Chris Smith, Jim Spatz, Lawrence Stordy, Mike Tipping, Bruce Towler, Tom Traves, Shannon Zimmerman, and Susan Brousseau (University Secretary)

REGRETS: Elizabeth Beale, William Black, Robert Chisholm, Lorne Clarke, Nancy MacCready-Williams, Jim Wilson

NON-MEMBERS: Carl Breckenridge, Ken Burt, George Cotaras, Floyd Dykeman, Susan Fitzgerald, Jeff Lamb, Courtney Larkin, Ryan MacNutt, David Mensink, Ian Nason, Bonnie Neuman, George Rogers, Alan Shaver, Susan Zinck

1. Approval of the Agenda

J. Cowan noted that the order of business has been revised to have Item 10, the *in camera* session, dealt with immediately following the consideration of the minutes (Item 2). T. Traves noted that there is one other item on which he would provide a brief update during the *in camera* session.

Moved by S. Marche, seconded by R. Radchuck:

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

The motion was CARRIED.

2. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held on February 19, 2008.

J. Cowan pointed out that an Action Items list has been added at the end of the minutes. This should make it easier for members and staff to confirm what follow-up is needed and by whom at the conclusion of each meeting.

Moved by B. Towler, seconded by R. Evans:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on February 19, 2008 be approved as distributed.

The motion was CARRIED.

The Board then moved to the *in camera* portion of the meeting. During this session the Board approved a motion to authorize a sum not to exceed \$730k be approved for the detailed design and preparation of construction documents for the New Academic Building, provided that all reasonable

efforts be made during that process to optimize space utilization and to minimize construction costs.

The Board returned to open session.

3. Chair's Report

3.1 Governors' Awards Presentation

A presentation was made to the 2008 Governors' Awards winners: Suzanne Clarke (Etobicoke, Ontario), Jonathan Mailman (Dartmouth, Nova Scotia), Jennifer Powley (Vegreville, Alberta), Vanessa Trenton (Toronto, Ontario), and Victoria Jones (Edmonton, Alberta).

4. President's Report

President Traves noted that the Memorandum of Understanding with the Province of Nova Scotia is on the agenda for today's meeting and he will not comment at this point other than to say that it is a very significant development for Dalhousie. He reported on several other items:

- "*Dalhousie Magazine*", the University's alumni magazine, and its editor, Amanda Pelham, recently won the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education (CCAEE) Prix d'Excellence Gold Award for Best Magazine in the university magazine category.
- The total gifts received and receipted through fund-raising for the fiscal year 2007-08 totaled \$19.1 million, which is the largest total ever recorded by the University. The Annual Fund accounted for \$ 2.4 million of this total. New pledges in hand for this current fiscal year are well ahead of where we stood last year at this time.
- There have been a number of administrative changes recently: Asa Kachan, University Registrar, will become Assistant Vice-President Enrolment Management and Registrar; Jeff Lamb, Director of Facilities Management, will become Assistant Vice-President of Facilities Management; and Gillian Wood, Director of Government Relations, will become Assistant Vice-President of Government Relations.
- Dr. Thomas Boran has been appointed Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry for a five-year term, effective July 1, 2008.

Dr. Traves also referred to a memo circulated to Board members yesterday regarding the recent media attention to the introduction of an Education program by Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN). He confirmed that the program is indeed a MUN program and that Dalhousie is essentially acting as an agent to assist MUN to run the program in Halifax. All issues of fees, admissions etc., are handled by MUN. He also commented on the process, noting that although this is not a Dalhousie program, the University kept the Department of Education fully informed of developments and sought their input at every stage. Additionally, the University contacted the Department when it was clear that the program was ready to proceed.

Discussion followed with some concern expressed from the governance perspective that this program (even if it is one that Dalhousie delivers for others), was not internally reviewed by the Board and Senate. There was also comment on the current process that is underway to review the way in which academic program approvals are handled.

5. Dalhousie Student Union President's Report

M. Tipping, DSU President, reported that the ANSSA (Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations) lobby conference with provincial government leaders is currently underway; the day provides an opportunity for student to discuss a variety of education issues with the premier, ministers and leaders of the opposition parties. He noted that a media event is planned for tomorrow to launch ANSSA plans for the beginning of what it hopes will be a review of post-secondary education in Nova Scotia. Mr. Tipping also commented on the Halifax Student Alliance organization and the fee proposal coming before the Board today.

Mr. Tipping introduced Ms. Courtney Larkin, the new DSU President for 2008-09. Ms. Larkin's term will begin as of May 1, 2008 and she will sit as a member of the Board of Governors for 2008-09. He noted that this is his last Board meeting and thanked the Board for this experience.

T. Traves noted the information circulated to Board members regarding crime statistics on campus. This is provided as a result of the report on the activities of the Halifax Student Alliance at the last Board meeting. He also noted the work of the Student Union in promoting positive responses from the University around safety and security issues on campus.

Dr. Traves thanked Mr. Tipping and the DSU Executive for their tremendous leadership on campus and in the community this year. J. Cowan also thanked Mr. Tipping for his contributions and made a presentation to him on behalf of the Board.

6. Items for Decision

6.1 Appointment of Student Board Member

Moved by C. MacNutt , seconded by R. Radchuck:

THAT the Board of Governors approve the appointment of Courtney Larkin as a student Board Member from May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2009.

The motion was CARRIED.

6.2 2008-09 Student Fees

It was agreed that the four motions regarding student fees in 6.2.1 to 6.2.4 be presented together. It was pointed out that, as required by the new MOU, consultation with students on the fee increases in 6.2.1, 6.2.2, and 6.2.3 did taken place. M. Tipping noted that students were pleased with this consultation and hope that it will continue to be the practice in the future.

Moved by T. Traves, seconded by L. Fraser:

THAT the Board of Governors approve the 2008-09 Residence Room and Board Rate Schedule as presented.

The motion was CARRIED.

THAT, based on the recommendation of the Operations Committee, the Board of Governors approve the 2008-09 Student Services Fee at \$100 per term for full-time students with other fees adjusted accordingly.

The motion was CARRIED.

THAT, based on the recommendation of the Operations Committee, the Board of Governors approve an increase of \$1 in the 2008-09 Facilities Renewal Fee to \$44 per term for full-time students.

The motion was CARRIED.

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Operations Committee, approve the implementation of a Halifax Student Alliance fee of \$1 per term for full time students and \$0.50 for each of the fall and winter terms for part-time students, commencing September 2008.

The motion was CARRIED.

6.3 Interim Spending Authority

Moved by D. Russell, seconded by L. Fraser:

T. Traves explained that this is the routine motion that is brought forward every year, recognizing that the budget for 2008-09 will not be formally approved until the June annual meeting. He noted that the special circumstances referred to in the motion have never arisen during his term as President. In response to a question as to whether the Executive Committee might have a role to play in authorizing the expenditures in excess of the 25% referred to in the motion, Dr. Traves agreed that such consultation would be reasonable and proposed that the motion be amended to reflect this.

THAT in order to allow the continued operation of the University until such time as the 2008-09 operating budget is given final approval, the Board of Governors authorize expenditures of up to 25% of the 2007-08 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.

The motion was CARRIED.

7. Budget Matters

7.1 Memorandum of Understanding

T. Traves reviewed the terms of the three-year Memorandum of Understanding with the Province, noting the following highlights:

- A tuition freeze for all students in all programs (except full cost recovery) for three years;
- A continuation of bursary payments to Nova Scotia students attending Nova Scotia universities, the amount of which will increase in each year of the MOU;

- A bursary payment in 2010-11 for all Canadian students from outside N.S.;
- An increase of \$30 million in Province's operating grant in each of the next three years to cover universities' projected costs during that period;
- An adjusted funding formula that will take in account recent enrolment changes, and a plan for transitioning to this new formula;
- A commitment to find \$25 million in infrastructure funding that will be used for capital projects over the life of the MOU.

Dr. Traves noted that Dalhousie's grant, by the third year of the agreement, will provide about \$13 million in excess of our budgeted costs and will allow us a significant opportunity to address a host of unmet needs, particularly in the areas of our identified strategic priorities. As most of this additional funding will come in at the back end of the agreement, the University will have some time to make some thoughtful decisions about the use of this funding.

Discussion followed with questions focused on several items including, the funding formula for determining each institution's share of the "envelope" and the benefits of moving to a rolling average for enrolment numbers; the varying tuition levels for Nova Scotian, Canadian and international students; and the government's intentions with respect to the abolition of mandatory retirement.

7.2 Budget Advisory Committee Update

A. Shaver, Vice-President, Academic and Provost, reported that preparation of the BAC Report XXXVI was delayed due to the on-going negotiations around the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Provinces. Following the recent signing of the MOU, there was a need to understand its implications and to finalize the Report. This has just been completed and the Report has been distributed to the campus community today. Dr. Shaver provided an overview of the Report and reviewed the preliminary operating budget revenue and expenditure model for 2008-09, noting the following highlights:

- Increase in the government operating grant of \$14 million (to \$145 million);
- A tuition freeze as per the MOU;
- A bursary under the MOU for all Nova Scotia students;
- A projected overall enrolment decline of 155 students for fall 2008;
- An allocation of \$5 million for investment in strategic initiatives (including \$1 million for Facilities Renewal);
- An anticipated faculty and unit budget reduction to deal with the projected budget deficit of \$2.9 million.

Dr. Shaver also noted that the BAC conducted reviews of the University policy on tuition fees and a review of the Facilities Renewal issue.

Several questions following Dr. Shaver's report focused on tuition policy. Note was made of the motion passed by the Board last May respecting further increases to international student fees and whether this should be reflected in the discussion on tuition fees that appears in the Report. Some discussion followed on whether this amendment referred to a "comprehensive review"; A. Shaver undertook to confirm this.

In response to a specific question on the substantial increase in tuition for physiotherapy students since the program moved to a Masters level, Dr. Shaver responded that it was his understanding

that, when the new fees were approved two years ago, the total amount of fees in the new condensed program were supposed to equal the total amount of fees in the old program. He noted that this was the first he had heard of this issue and undertook to look into it.

Dr. Shaver reported that the Report has been released to the University community with a request for feedback. The BAC will then bring back an updated document with a final budget proposal. He invited Board members to contact him with their questions and suggestions.

8. Items for Presentation/Discussion

8.1 Enrolment Management Steering Committee Report

It was agreed to defer this item due to insufficient time. A. Shaver will send out a note to Board members with highlight points prior to the next meeting. Board members are encouraged to ask questions or initiate discussion of issues by e-mail.

9. Items for Information

9.1 Long Term Financial Planning Committee Report Update

It was agreed to defer this item due to insufficient time. T. Traves will send out a note to Board members with highlight points prior to the next meeting. Board members are encouraged to ask questions or initiate discussion of issues by e-mail.

9.2 Board Standing Committee Reports

It was noted that reports from the various standing committees that have met since the last meeting are included in the agenda package for information.

The Board returned to an *in camera* session.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.