

Item: Board of Governors Minutes, February 1981

Call Number: UA-1 27.3

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CONFIDENTIAL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Governors held on this date in the Board and Senate Room at 4 p.m.

Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia
February 19, 1981

PRESENT:

Dr. A. Gordon Archibald, Chairman	Mrs. Lorraine Green
Miss Zilpha Linkletter, Vice-Chairman	Dr. Lorraine Laurence
Dr. W. Andrew MacKay	Ms. Marilyn MacDonald
Sister Elizabeth Bellefontaine	Mr. Peter McDonough
Mr. G.E.C. Brown	Mr. Kenneth McFarlane
Dr. J. McD. Corston	Miss Aileen A. Meagher
Mr. James S. Cowan	Mr. Gordon Owen
Dr. Donna Curry	Ms. Heather Robertson
Dr. G. Ritchie Douglas	Mrs. Judy Sapp
Dr. Douglas A. Eisner	Mr. Atul Sharma
Mr. Brian Flemming	Mr. R.G. Smith
Mr. Arthur G.H. Fordham	Mr. W. Brian Smith
Mr. John W. Graham	Mr. Donald C.R. Sobey
	Dr. Edwin F. Ross, Honorary Secretary

Also present at the meeting were Mr. L.R. Shaw (Vice-President, Administration and Finance), Dr. D.M. Cameron (Executive Director, Policy and Planning), Dr. A.M. Sinclair (Chairman, Dalhousie Senate), Dr. Edgar Z. Friedenberg (President, Dalhousie Faculty Association), Mr. Derek Mann (Director of Information) and Mr. Bruce Irwin (Director, Alumni Affairs).

Minutes

The minutes of the last regular meeting of the Board of Governors held on Thursday, November 20, 1980 were approved as circulated.

Governors

The usual nominating committee, consisting of the President and the Officers of the Board, was asked to bring forward suggestions regarding the replacement of members of the Board appointed by Governor-in-Council who are due to retire at the end of April.

Staff Matters

The changes in appointments as per the list distributed to the Governors were presented by the President and were approved with the addition of Dr. Alan M. Sinclair as noted in the addendum to the list, which addendum is attached to these minutes.

The appointment of Dr. John Aldous of the Department of Pharmacology, who reaches retirement age, as Professor Emeritus was noted.

Collective Agreement

Dr. MacKay recalled that at the January meeting of the Executive Committee to which members of the Board were invited, it had been agreed to authorize the Signing Officers of the Board to sign the second Collective Agreement with the Dalhousie Faculty Association, if by a vote to be taken later, the members of the Association approved the Agreement. The President noted that this approval had been given despite receipt of a resolution of the Senate which expressed disapproval of a clause in the

Agreement which compels members of the bargaining unit who are not members of the Dalhousie Faculty Association to pay the equivalent of dues to the Association.

He also said that he had spoken about the Board's decision to the Senate and had told them that he would write to both the Senate and the Dalhousie Faculty Association about the decision asking them to name representatives to meet with representatives of the Board to see if a solution to this problem cannot be found.

Dr. MacKay said that the salary changes as a consequence of the Agreement would be included in the pay cheques at the end of March.

Extension of
Tuition Fee
Discount to
Dependents of
King's Faculty

It was agreed that the fifty percent reduction in tuition fees now available to the dependents of Dalhousie employees should also apply to dependents of the Faculty of King's College, following a request in a letter to the President from Dr. John Godfrey, the President of King's.

It was hoped that there might be some reciprocation on this concession by allowing the dependents of Dalhousie Faculty a reduction in fees if they should wish to attend the course in Journalism at King's.

Employee Benefits
Committee

Vice-President Shaw reported that the Employee Benefits Committee of the University was considering possible changes in pensions and pension vesting in the near future. At present pensions are not fully vested until after ten years of employment at Dalhousie and it might be proposed that vesting take place to bring Dalhousie's in line with most other universities' pension plans. Mr. Shaw noted that this would result in substantial cost increases to the University.

The Vice-President said that at the next meeting there would also be consideration by the Committee on the indexing of pensions of present retirees although he pointed out that the D.F.A. are rather sceptical about the contribution of present employees to the indexing.

Finally, Mr. Shaw said that there was a move to have the average salary of the last three or four years rather than the last five used in computing pensions.

Mrs. Green, who also represents the Board on the Employee Benefits Committee, promised that information on any proposed changes would be in the hands of the Board before the next meeting. There was also, she said, consideration being given to the purchase of annuities from the University's pension funds rather than from private companies.

In response to a question as to whether pensions were part of the Collective Agreement with the D.F.A., the President said that they were outside the Agreement but noted that they could not be changed without the approval of that Association. This particular clause is of concern to other bargaining units in the University and Dr. MacKay said that he would like to bring all groups along together on this particular matter.

The President emphasized that the Employee Benefits Committee, which will be making the recommendations to the Board, is now no longer a Committee of the Board although the Board has its own Staff Benefits Committee (of which Mrs. Green is Chairman). On the Employee Benefits Committee, which has resulted from union negotiations, there is equal representation of the Board and Senate on the one hand and staff on the other hand. The Committee appoints its own Chairman.

Dr. MacKay went on to say that a problem has arisen because the University's pension scheme, which cannot be changed without the approval of the Minister of National Revenue, refers to an "Advisory Committee" consisting of the Board of Governors Employee Benefits Committee, and that the Administration is now seeking legal advice on the proper constitution of that Committee.

Investment
Committee

There not having been a recent meeting of the Investment Committee, there were no investment changes to report.

Buildings and
Grounds

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, reported as follows:

1. Arena (Rink) - H.W. Corkum and Company had been appointed project managers for the Arena but now there was trouble with finances as the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission have expressed some concern about the projected cost (\$2.5m). There is to be a meeting with the Minister of Education to-morrow on this problem. A request for further extension of the deadline for the insurance has been made.
2. The cost of converting the former Provincial Archives Building for the use of the Department of Chemistry has also been questioned by the M.P.H.E.C.

The President noted that he did not contemplate recommending that the University borrow more money to finance the above projects.

3. The Dental Complex is occupied and almost entirely complete.
4. The Institute of Public Affairs Building (the joining together of several existing houses and the addition of an auditorium) is complete. (The name Henson Centre for the complex was approved by the Board in August 1980.)

5. All four floors of the former Nova Scotia College of Art and Design are complete and a name is now needed to replace "Art College".

Budgets

Mr. Shaw continued with a discussion of the budgets for 1980/81 and 1981/82.

With regard to the former he announced with regret that the \$700,000 deficit which the Board had approved was likely to be in excess of \$2.0m even with the approved use of the Killam Residue Fund. The Vice-President attributed the deficit to increased fuel costs, a cold winter and higher interest on the University's debt (the current rate is approximately eighteen percent).

With regard to the 1981/82 budget, Mr. Shaw said that when the budget requests of the Deans and administrative heads had been totalled, there was a substantial deficit so that some very difficult decisions would have to be made in the next two months.

The President indicated there would be discussions with the M.P.H.E.C. about the University's operating deficit which is in danger of exceeding the amount set by the Commission. If it does, under the present rules, the University could have two percent of its operating grant for 1981/82 withheld.

In response to a question by Mr. McFarlane, it was stated that there was no relationship between the grant that might be made by Government for the building of the Arena and the operating grant just discussed.

Waiver of Fees

Miss Linkletter, the Chairman of the Budget Committee, reported that the waiver of fees for senior citizens, originally introduced for a trial period of three years, would be reviewed by University staff and would probably be reported on at the next meeting.

Increases in Tuition Fees

Miss Linkletter said that the proposal to increase tuition fees was also being investigated by staff. In connection with this item, there would be consultation with the Student Relations and Residence Committee so that there could be full input from students.

It was noted that the M.P.H.E.C. expected tuition fees to increase with the cost of living, even if the grant recommended by the Commission was actually approved in full by Government.

Open Hours at Shirreff Hall

Dr. Corston reported for the Student Relations and Residence Committee of which he is the Chairman. Minutes of a recent meeting of his Committee had been distributed earlier by mail to the Governors but he had with him a letter from the Dean of Shirreff Hall, Miss Christine Irvine, which he read to the meeting. She said that on the average there were twelve male guests on the

weekend and they were guests of students who lived in Newcomb Wing of the residence. Miss Irvine explained that second and third year students who have this privilege of accommodating male guests on the weekend are allowed the choice of a room elsewhere if they do not wish to be involved in the open hours arrangements.

On the basis of its deliberations and Miss Irvine's letter the Committee recommended that arrangements continue with the present open hours at Shirreff Hall, and the Board agreed.

Dr. Laurence asked to have her negative vote recorded. Miss Linkletter asked to speak before the subject was closed and stated that she had heard that the tone of Shirreff Hall had been affected by the policy and that she herself agreed with this.

Roles and Goals
Statement

The President noted that he had asked to have a statement which he had prepared for the M.P.H.E.C distributed to the Governors but he did not at this time elaborate upon the document.

Doctor in the
Science of Law

The President reported that the M.P.H.E.C. had approved the University's proposed programme in the Science of Law with the exception of one of its three options, that of Public Law.

Estate of Lalia
Chase

The Board had some months earlier agreed that the proceeds of the estate of Dr. Lalia Chase should be added to the Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation Fund. The President now reported that the University had received the full proceeds of the estate to which it was entitled and this amounted to the benefit of the Fund in the amount of \$304,100.

It was agreed that the President should bring the appreciation of the Board to the attention of the Estate's trustees.

Dalhousie Fund
Council

The members of the Board had received by mail two documents proposing a reorganization of the Dalhousie Fund Council. Dr. MacKay explained the need for an independent Council as a policy advisory committee which would omit, except possibly as observers, members of those groups in the University who wish to carry on special campaigns for their own purposes. He reminded the Governors that this was the original way in which the Fund Council had operated.

Dr. MacKay said that there was a need for an overview of the various requests by internal organizations seeking money and added, in response to questions, that it would be up to the Council to develop liaison between those groups and itself.

Board
Visitation

The President said that he planned to circulate with the minutes of this meeting, proposals for visits by members of the Board to parts of the University.

President's
Report

Dr. MacKay said that he was now fully installed! He thanked the Board for their attendance at the installation functions and for their cooperation with him which had helped to make the events successful. He also thanked the Alumni Association through Dr. Eisner for their support, particularly for the musical concert in the Cohn Auditorium that they had sponsored the previous Friday evening.

Dr. MacKay announced he would be assuming the Chairmanship of the Association of Atlantic Universities shortly. He said that it was not the best of times for him when beginning his Presidency to take on this additional responsibility but he felt that he could be useful in view of the very important discussions on Federal-Provincial funding of post-secondary education which would be occupying a great deal of the time of the Association in the next year or two.

He said that Atlantic Canada would be the most seriously affected area of the country by the decisions of the Federal/Provincial Governments concerning future support for universities. It was a very complex problem, he added.

Approval to
Open Account

The Board approved the ordinary resolution of the Chase Manhattan Bank in Jakarta, Indonesia, to authorize the Vice-President and Dr. Arthur Hanson, the Director of the Institute for Resource and Environmental Studies, to operate an account in the Bank's branch and authorized the Signing Officers of the Board to sign the necessary documents. The opening of the account has been made necessary by a programme undertaken by Dr. Hanson's Institute funded by the World Bank.

Before adjourning the meeting (at 5:30 p.m.), the Chairman spoke about the feeling of good will which prevailed at present in the University community which he believed in no small measure was due to the installation of "Andy" MacKay as President of the University. Dr. Sinclair, as Chairman of the Senate, agreed with Dr. Archibald and said that the excellent attendance of Faculty at the Installation was a good sign of their support of the new President. Dr. Eisner expressed the pleasure of the Alumni Association with the Installation and the accompanying celebrations.

Edwin F. Ross
Honorary Secretary

ADDENDUM

Faculty
of
Law

New Appointment - Part Time

Sinclair, Alan Murray
LL.B. (Dal'56)
LL.M. (So. Meth.'57)
LL.M. (Michigan'60)
S.J.D. (Michigan'61)

Professor in Law for a period of three years, effective July 1, 1981, at salary of \$25,000 per annum which includes 4% vacation pay and living allowances.