

Item: Board of Governors Minutes, February 1984

Call Number: UA-1 12.5

Additional Notes:

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Minutes of a Meeting of the
Board of Governors held on
February 21, 1984 at 4:00 p.m.
in the Board and Senate Room.

Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia

PRESENT: Dr. M. L. Campbell
Mr. W. G. Campbell
Mr. G. T. H. Cooper
Mr. P. Doig
Dr. D. A. Eisner
Mr. J. W. Graham
Mr. T. Hill
Miss Z. Linkletter,
Honorary Secretary
Ms. E. A. Macdonald
Dr. W. A. MacKay

Mr. E. N. McKelvey
Mrs. S. Medjuck
Dr. C. Murray
Mr. G. Piercey,
Honorary Treasurer
Ms. H. Robertson
Dr. H. Roper
Mrs. J. Sapp
Dr. C. B. Stewart
Mrs. P. Weld
Mr. S. Zwicker

Also present were Messrs. L. R. Shaw (Vice-President, Finance and Development); A. M. Sinclair (Vice-President, Academic); D. M. Cameron (Vice-President, Planning and Resources); J. Mabley (Director of Development); R. J. Bowman (Director, Information and Public Relations); M. Wright (Director of Financial Services); W. E. Jones and R. Rodger (Senate Representatives); E. B. Mercer (Secretary of the Board, pro tem); and Mrs. P. Burt (President, Dalhousie Faculty Association).

Regrets were received from Dr. A. G. Archibald, Mr. J. S. Cowan, Mr. D. J. Hennigar, Ms. M. Lamb, Mrs. R. Murray, Dr. C. E. Ritchie, Mr. D. Ritcey, Mr. W. S. Robertson, Mrs. P. Roscoe, Mr. F. B. Wickwire and Dr. J. McNulty.

Miss Z. Linkletter occupied the Chair in the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and E. B. Mercer acted as Secretary, with the agreement of the members present.

New Member

Dr. Mona Campbell was welcomed to her first meeting since her appointment to the Board. The President pointed out that she had been a long-time member of the Advisory Committee of the School of Business.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of January 31, 1984, which had been circulated, were approved.

Board Matters

Mount Saint Vincent Representatives to Dalhousie Board of Governors
Belated approval was given to the appointment of the representatives of Mount Saint Vincent University, Mrs. Judith Sapp and Mrs. Patricia Roscoe, after Dr. MacKay explained that apparently this matter had not been formally attended to earlier.

Reports of
Standing
Committees

(a) Staff Relations Committee

This was presented by Dr. Chester Stewart, who drew attention to certain staff changes of interest. Two corrections were noted by him and these corrections have been made in the copy in the official file. Also, a member of the Board noted a discrepancy in the rank of Professor Mary A. White between her appointment in the Faculty of Arts and Science and in the Faculty of Graduate Studies, which will be clarified.

The death of Professor J. C. Theriault was noted and Dr. MacKay informed the Board that since the printing of the Staff Matters two retired professors who had given yeoman service to the University had passed away: Dr. R. C. Dickson (Professor and Head of the Department of Medicine, 1955-74) and Professor A. S. (Sandy) Mowat (Professor and Chairman of the Department of Education 1939-71). It was agreed the President should convey to the surviving families the sympathy of the Board and its appreciation of their service to Dalhousie.

The President presented the following recommendation from the Department of French: That Elizabeth Bednarski and Margaret Ross each be appointed to a tenure-track 50% F.T.E. (full-time equivalent) position, effective July 1, 1983. He reported this matter has been the subject of grievance with the Dalhousie Faculty Association and he reviewed the background. He noted that the responsibilities of the President include that of making "all recommendations to the Board as to appointments to, and promotions in, the teaching staff and administrative offices of the university".

He further reported:

- 1) That at the time of the recommendation the then Chairperson of the Department reported the recommendation of the Department but did not recommend the appointments;
- 2) That the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science reported the recommendation of the Department but has not recommended the appointments;
- 3) That the current Acting Chairperson of the Department, who was on leave in 1982-83 when the recommendation was made, does support the recommendation of the Department;
- 4) That on no previous occasion known to the President has the President recommended an appointment when the Department, the Chairperson responsible at the time, and the Dean concerned did not together favourably recommend the appointment;
- 5) That the President does not on this occasion recommend the appointment of Ms. Bednarski and Ms. Ross as recommended by the Department of French.

Reports of
Standing
Committees
(continued)

(b) Finance and Budget Committee

Miss Linkletter reported that the Finance and Budget Committee had not met this month and that while the budget process is at a critical stage the Committee had no issues to bring forward.

The President reported that the Retirees Trust Fund, which is managed by designated trustees appointed by the Board, with the Canada Permanent as Fund Manager, has received from Auditors the financial report on its first year of operation. The report is on file with the Trustees and the University and copies will be made available to any interested member of the Board. Performance of the Fund was satisfactory, and permitted increasing of pension payments to those who had been retired for more than one year since June 30, 1982.

(c) Audit Committee

Mr. George Piercey reported that a study by the University's Auditors of various internal controls over the handling of funds had been completed. He read a summary of the forty-eight page report of the Auditors to the meeting.

The summary noted that "the report's recommendations are intended to strengthen the various policies and procedures which are necessary for the maintenance of an adequate system of internal control".

Mr. Piercey indicated that a further report will be made to the Board of Governors at a subsequent meeting on measures that have been taken to follow the recommendations of the Auditors Report.

A copy of the summary of the Report has been filed with the Secretary. The Report itself is with the Director of Financial Services, Mr. M. Wright.

(d) Student Relations and Residence Committee

Mr. John Graham reported that the Committee had met with Vice-President Sinclair to discuss tuition fee increases. There will be a full report at the March meeting.

(e) Committee on Relations with Other Institutions

Mr. Graham reported also for this Committee. The Committee had met with Mr. Ronald MacDonald, the Director of the joint purchasing arrangements between Dalhousie, Mount Saint Vincent, and Saint Mary's. He said that Mr. MacDonald tries to make common purchases for the three universities but does not decide on what should be purchased. The arrangements which have been in effect for about two years have been very successful and Dalhousie has been the principal beneficiary so far with estimated savings of approximately \$200,000.00 a year. The next meeting of the Committee will discuss its terms of reference. President MacKay added that discussions are about to commence with the Nova Scotia Agricultural College concerning the possibility of a joint degree in Agriculture with that institution. He also said he had introduced to representatives of other universities the proposal of the Dalhousie Senate that there be a joint committee of Senate rep-

Reports of
Standing
Committees
(continued)

representatives from Mount Saint Vincent, Dalhousie, and Saint Mary's. Finally, by way of information, he mentioned that a group from the Universities of Alberta and Manitoba are engaged in a study of the five local universities' computer needs and the report is expected by the end of March.

Campaign for
Dalhousie

Dr. MacKay reported the process of defining the needs of the university continues. He had met with the Minister of Education recently and discussed the particularly urgent needs of additional space for Chemistry, Law, and Mathematics and Computing Science.

The President reported attending a dinner in Toronto arranged by Dr. C. E. Ritchie at which many of the leaders in the Campaign were present. He was much encouraged by the response at this meeting. A vote of thanks to Dr. Ritchie and the Bank of Nova Scotia for arranging the Toronto dinner meeting was moved by Dr. MacKay and readily endorsed by the Governors.

Policy on
Overdue Accounts

A statement of policy on this subject had been circulated beforehand with the agenda. Included in the statement was the following motion, which was now moved by President MacKay and seconded by Dr. Murray:

That students intending to be graduated in May will be removed from the list of graduating students if their accounts are delinquent on March 15 (April 1 for the years 1983/84 and 1984/85), or become delinquent thereafter. For fall and winter graduates the corresponding deadlines are September 1 and January 1 respectively.

In response to a question, Vice-President Shaw said that the present policy concerning overdue accounts has been not to pursue them as assiduously as he thought they should be. Now an account collector has been retained and he could report some success as a result, although there are difficulties with this process.

Mr. Wright said that the number of delinquents has increased in recent years but he could not state offhand the exact amount owed at present.

Professor Rodger raised the possibility that Senate, when it meets in early May to discuss graduation lists, might recommend that a delinquent student be graduated in spite of his debts. He thought there should be some softening of the motion to suggest the possibility of "reasonableness" being used in financial decisions.

In response to a question by Mr. Hill, the President of the Student Union, as to whether the approval of the policy would exclude Senate

Policy on
Overdue Accounts
(continued)

participation in such decisions, the President replied that it would, noting that Senate is usually dealing with single cases. There are usually many other similar cases at the same time who do not receive the benefit of Senate intervention.

In reply to a query of Mr. McKelvey as to whether this was a question of money, the President said no, it was a matter of equitable treatment of students. On vote, the policy on overdue accounts was passed.

President's
Report

Dr. MacKay reported on meetings throughout the area which had been arranged by the Alumni through Mrs. Weld, to whom he expressed his gratitude. He noted that the English Department was the recipient of a word processor, purchased from the Alumni Annual Fund. This would be very valuable to this Department, he said, and added that he hoped that word processors could be purchased for other Departments later.

At recent meetings of the Association of Atlantic Universities, the President said that there had been further discussions on an Office of Educational Technology and a Joint Application Centre. Mr. Terry, the Chairman of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, had met with the A.A.U. and had spoken of reviewing of existing programmes within universities. A proposal to invite Russian scientists to the Maritime region in 1984 was approved by the Association.

As the current President of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, Dr. MacKay had attended the installation of the new President of the University of Guelph and meetings of a House of Commons Committee discussing Bill C-12, concerning the Established Programmes Financing Act, which would involve the separation of university and health financing. Dr. MacKay found serious concern among all parties at the meeting of the Commons Committee about the transfer of funds for post-secondary education.


A visiting accreditation team at the Faculty of Medicine had been very frank regarding the strengths and weaknesses of Dalhousie's School.

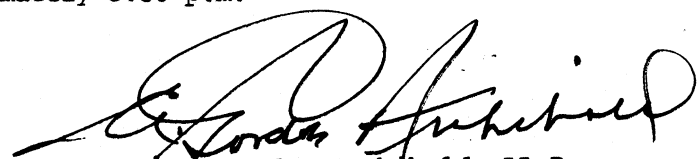
The process of budgeting within the University continues to be difficult and there is as yet no clear indication of the time of announcement of government funding.

Finally, the President noted that reports on Dalhousie's approach to new students, on part-time studies and extension, and on sexual harrassment were being studied and will result in action.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:30 p.m.


Zilpha Linkletter,
Honorary Secretary


A. Gordon Archibald, LL.D.,
Chairman