



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

**Approved Minutes of the Meeting (Open Session)
Held on Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.
University Hall, Macdonald Building**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Spatz (Chair), Jay Abbass, Michelle Awad, John Baxter, Barrie Black, Wadih Fares, Richard Florizone, Fred Fountain, Lloyd Fraser, Bob Hanf, John Hutton, Laurie Jennings, Sagar Jha, Courtney Larkin, Lori MacLean, George McLellan, Ibrahim Merdan, Gail Tomblin Murphy, Aubrey Palmetter, Paula Simon, Chris Smith, Rob Sobey, Larry Stordy

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Alain Boutet (Executive Director, International Relations), Martha Crago (VP Research), Floyd Dykeman (VP External), Ian Nason (Acting VP Finance & Administration), Bonnie Neuman (VP Student Services), Carolyn Watters (VP Academic & Provost), Susan Brousseau (University Secretary), Grace Chang (Minute Taker)

REGRETS: William (Bill) Black, Joyce Carter, Sherry Porter, Candace Thomas

1. Approval of Agenda

Moved by J. Baxter, seconded by S. Jha:

THAT the agenda for February 11, 2014 be approved as presented.

The motion CARRIED.

2. Consent Agenda

2.1 Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of November 26, 2013

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on November 26, 2013 be approved as presented.

Approved by CONSENT.

2.2 Board Committee Appointments

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Governance and Nominating Committee, approve the appointment of Robert (Bob) Hanf as a member of the Capital Projects and Facilities Committee and the Human Resources Committee for a term from February 11, 2014 to June 30, 2014.

Approved by CONSENT.

2.3 Board Appointment to SUB Board of Management

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Governance and Nominating Committee, approve the appointment of Paula Simon as the Board representative on the SUB Board of Management, effective as of the date of Board approval for a term to run until June 30, 2015.

Approved by CONSENT.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Chair's Report

J. Spatz spoke briefly to his, Dr. Florizone's and Dr. Crago's participation in the Canadian delegation to Israel in January, and the historic signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Dalhousie and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev to create a world-class Ocean Studies Centre in Eilat, Israel.

5. President's Report

R. Florizone highlighted several items in his report, including the publication of the 100 Days of Listening report in December and the next steps which involve seeking further response on the report and drafting a brief Strategic Directions document based on the report and the feedback received. It is anticipated that this strategic directions document will be presented for Senate and Board approval later this spring.

Dr. Florizone reported briefly on continued positive enrolment news, particularly in terms of increased undergraduate applications for admission which are distributed across a range of faculties and geographic regions. He also noted the recent announcement by the Nova Scotia government of a 1% increase in the university operating grant for 2014-15; while this is less than the cost of inflation, the increase is still positive news given the reductions in funding over the past three years.

Dr. Florizone noted, with respect to the Chair's comments on the recent signing of the MOU in Israel, that Dalhousie is now moving to the next steps of implementing the MOU and bringing elements of the agreement to life. He also spoke briefly to various senior administrative changes and initiatives including a review of the Provost role. Lastly, Dr. Florizone noted the federal budget which will be tabled today; the U15 group and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) will be watching for the announcement of a new Research Excellence Fund, which is expected to add significant research funding over the next few years.

6. Dalhousie Student Union President's Report

S. Jha noted the attendance of a significant number of students from Divest Dalhousie and provided some information to the Board on the group's request that Dalhousie University divest its endowment funds from holdings in the fossil fuel industry. Representatives from Divest Dalhousie will make a presentation to the Board Investment Committee in late February. Mr. Jha referred members to other items in his written report, including work on the update of DSU elections policy, a review by the DSU of membership in its external provincial and national advocacy organizations and progress on the proposed Student Union Building renovation project.

R. Florizone welcomed the students, noting that the University's administration is aware that students have a huge interest in these issues. He commented that universities are an appropriate place to have these conversations.

7. Items for Decision

7.1 Capital Projects and Facilities: Wallace McCain Learning Commons - Funding Approval

W. Fares introduced this item, on behalf of the Capital Projects and Facilities Committee.

Moved by W. Fares, seconded by S. Jha:

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Capital Projects and Facilities Committee, approve a sum not to exceed \$245K in order to carry out a location analysis for the construction of the Wallace McCain Learning Commons and to prepare the necessary documentation to select a firm to act as the Design/Build contractor for the project.

The motion CARRIED.

7.2 Draft Revised Tuition Policy

M. Awad, on behalf of the Operations Committee, presented the proposed revised Tuition Policy, noting that the current policy was last updated in 2007.

During the discussion, it was proposed that in Section 4, the word “should” be replaced with “shall” and that “away” (a typo) be corrected to “aware”. It was also discussed that under Section 3 the wording around “consideration” should be changed so that implementing “on a transparent basis” is not subject to “consideration”. It was agreed that the end of the phrase be revised to read “...over a multi-year period and will be done in a transparent manner.”

Moved by M. Awad, seconded by A. Palmeter:

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Operations Committee, approve the revised Tuition Policy, dated January 29, 2014, as amended.

The motion CARRIED.

7.3 Board Representatives on Search Committee – Vice-President Finance and Administration

L. Stordy, on behalf of the Governance and Nominating Committee, introduced the motion.

Moved by Larry, seconded by W. Fares:

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Governance and Nominating Committee, approve the appointment of Michelle Awad, William (Bill) Black and Chris Smith to the Search Committee for the Vice-President Finance and Administration effective immediately.

The motion CARRIED.

8. Items for Presentation

8.1 International Strategy

A. Boutet presented the International Strategy, which was previously approved by Senate on November 25, 2013 and the Board Academic Affairs and Research Committee on December 19, 2013. The Strategy has been developed to provide priorities in international partnerships and initiatives in six focal areas: international recruitment, international mobility, internationalization of academic programs, support for international student retention and success, international research and international development, and international alumni engagement.

Following the presentation, members expressed their support for the University’s initiative in developing a strategy that will seek to coordinate and integrate initiatives across a wide range of activities and units. Discussion focused on the need for attention to student retention issues and services and supports for international students. P. Simon spoke to a presentation given to the Student Experience Committee earlier in the week by a representative from the Dalhousie

International Student Association and the committee's sense that the University has a lot of work to do in the area of supports and services. A. Boutet and C. Watters agreed that this is important for Dalhousie and spoke to some of the initiatives that are currently in progress, including a working group on international student services. C. Watters noted that the International Strategy is aimed at bringing a connectedness to initiatives; there are many activities happening across the University, but these have not been integrated in a consistent fashion. She noted too that there needs to be an appropriate balance between the development of central and local services, as several Faculties currently have international student enrolments approaching 30% of their total student enrolment.

There was also some discussion of "internationalization of the curriculum". It was noted that this can encompass many things other than the introduction of new classes or programs, including greater intercultural awareness in the curriculum, greater awareness of international students in the classroom, and different ways of teaching to more intentionally reflect a variety of perspectives.

9. Items for Information

9.1 Board Standing Committee Reports

W. Fares, Chair of the Capital Projects and Facilities Committee, spoke briefly to the status of the arena project, noting that the University is still awaiting consideration of the joint proposal by HRM Council.

G. McLellan, Chair of the Investment Committee, referred members to the Committee's report, noting that it highlights progress and focuses on the issues raised by S. Jha in his report. He noted that the Investment Committee has spent a good deal of time on these issues over the past several years and spoke to some of the discussions the Committee has had around Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) considerations for investments and some of the complexities and challenges involved. He noted his agreement that the University needs to be open to the concerns of its stakeholders and that it is the place for these kinds of discussions.

10. In Camera Session

The Board moved to an *in camera* session.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.