



**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**Approved Minutes of the Meeting (Open Session)  
held on Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.  
Macdonald Building, University Hall**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Larry Stordy (Chair), Michelle Awad, Ian Bezanson, Joyce Carter, Wadih Fares, Richard Florizone, Elaine Gibson, Rebecca Haworth, Kevin Hewitt, Laurie Jennings, Courtney Larkin, Naomi Metallic, Sherry Porter, Anthony Saikali, Paula Simon, Rob Sobey, Candace Thomas, Gail Tomblin Murphy, Michele Williams

**NON-MEMBERS PRESENT:** Susan Brousseau (University Secretary), Peter Fardy (Vice President Advancement), Ian Nason (Vice-President Finance and Administration), Carolyn Watters (Provost and Vice-President Academic)

**REGRETS:** Cassandra Dorrington, Jody Forsyth, Bob Hanf, Lori MacLean, Anne McLellan, Daniel Nicholson, Audrey Palmeter, Martha Crago (Vice-President Research)

**GUESTS:** Andrea Power (Associate Secretary, Senate), Matt Hebb (AVP Government Relations), Janice MacInnis (Manager, Organizational Health, HR), Jasmine Walsh (Acting AVP Human Resources)

**1. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by C. Larkin, seconded by R. Sobey:

**THAT the agenda for November 24, 2015 be approved as presented.**

**The motion CARRIED.**

**2. Consent Agenda**

**2.1. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of October 20, 2015**

Motion: **THAT the minutes of the meeting held on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 be approved as presented.**

**Approved by CONSENT**

**2.2 Search Committee for AVP Development**

Motion: **THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Governance and Nominating Committee, approve the appointment of Rob Sobey to the Search Committee for the Assistant Vice-President, Development effective immediately.**

**Approved by CONSENT**

### **2.3 Search Committee for AVP Financial Services**

**Motion: THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Governance and Nominating Committee, approve the appointment of Michelle Awad to the Search Committee for the Assistant Vice-President, Financial Services effective immediately.**

**Approved by CONSENT**

### **3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

### **4. Chair's Report**

L. Stordy welcomed I. Bezanson to his first meeting. He congratulated Martha Crago, Vice-President Research, on being honoured at the Progress Women of Excellence Awards last week and noted that Dr. Michelle Adams was also honoured, as were a number of Dalhousie alumnae.

### **5. President's Report**

R. Florizone highlighted several items in his report, including local, national and international events over the past few weeks, some of which have been tragic and others that have signaled hope, change and reconciliation. He spoke to the recent death of a Dalhousie student in residence, expressed the sympathy of the Dalhousie community, and noted the continuing support provided to the student's family and friends. He spoke briefly to the terrorist attacks in Paris and Beirut, noting the sometimes-negative reactions to Syrian refugees that has resulted from this tragedy. He highlighted the need for Dalhousie to play a leading role in assisting refugees to settle in Nova Scotia, noting that Dalhousie has continued its efforts to raise funds and has now achieved 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s of its goal.

Dr. Florizone reported that he will be meeting with the chair of Dalhousie's Black Faculty Caucus to discuss issues of racism that have occurred recently on North American campuses and how the university should respond to these and local matters.

Dr. Florizone noted the recent Dalhousie reception to welcome Perry Bellegarde, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, and former prime minister Paul Martin to Halifax in advance of a public forum on Treaty Education, and his participation (with Dalhousie colleagues Diana (Dee) Lewis and Kara Paul), in the national Building Reconciliation summit at the University of Saskatchewan; the summit focused on universities answering the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. Dr. Florizone noted that the work ahead for Dalhousie is to determine how it should address and respond to these events, the TRC report and the recommendations coming out of the Belong, Restorative Justice and Backhouse Taskforce reports released last spring. He anticipates the release of a status update shortly that will describe progress made on the recommendations in these various reports.

### **6. Dalhousie Student Union President's Report**

A. Saikali gave a report on behalf of Daniel Nicholson, Dalhousie Student Union President. He expressed sadness on behalf of the student community over the sudden death of a student in residence. He noted that the Student Union had been working with counsellors to support students after this incident. Mr. Saikali highlighted a number of items, including the anticipated confirmation of additional funding, to continue the 24-hour peer-to-peer confidential sexual assault and harassment phone line introduced this fall, the progress of the Student Union Building renovation project (which will see the completion of Phase 1 in mid-December), and the DSU's continuing work to divest its investment holdings in fossil fuel companies and other companies viewed as being engaged in unethical practices. He also noted the continuing concern among students about the potential for a tuition "re-set" for some academic programs; the DSU will continue to engage with the university's Budget Advisory Committee in order to provide

feedback on tuition proposals for 2016-17 as those are developed. Mr. Saikali noted the frequent connection between financial stresses and student mental health and asked Board members and university administrators to be cognizant of the relationship between these.

With respect to fossil fuel divestment, Mr. Saikali noted that he had had an opportunity to meet with members of Divest Dal and read a statement on their behalf. The DSU commends the work of Divest Dal and looks forward to working with them and bringing the issue of divestment to the DSU Council table primarily. He also noted the progress the Board has made on the two recommendations contained in the report released last November, focused on increasing transparency and introducing a “green” fund for donors to invest in the university without investing in fossil fuels.

Lastly, Mr. Saikali noted that student engagement this year is high. The Student Union has been working to strengthen relationships with students at the Agricultural Campus and in the various professional programs.

Following his report, A. Saikali responded to questions regarding mental health services on campus. He highlighted the Student Union’s initiative to provide peer support services and the need for various campus groups to work together on mental health services.

## **7. Items for Decision**

### **7.1 Capital Projects and Facilities**

#### **7.1.1 Facilities Renewal Preliminary Budget 2016-2017**

W. Fares, Chair of the Capital Projects and Facilities Committee, introduced the item and presented the motion. During consideration of the motion, it was suggested that, in future years, it might be helpful to have the funding comparison from the previous year included for information.

Moved by W. Fares, seconded by Michelle Awad:

**THAT THE Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Capital Projects and Facilities Committee, approve funding not to exceed \$1 million for preliminary design and procurement work prior to the commencement of the fiscal year 2016-17 and approve the expenditure in fiscal year 2016-17 of the remaining funds for the included list of proposed Facilities Renewal projects greater than \$250k in estimated cost.**

**The motion CARRIED.**

### **7.2 Governance and Nominating Committee**

#### **7.2.1 Senate Constitution Amendments**

C. Thomas, Chair of the Governance and Nominating Committee, introduced the item and presented the motion. There were no questions on the proposed amendments.

Moved by C. Thomas, seconded by K. Hewitt:

**THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Governance & Nominating Committee, approve the proposed amendments to Section 1 of the Senate Constitution and the renumbering of Section 2 as Section 3 in the Constitution, as presented.**

**The motion CARRIED.**

## **8. Items for Information**

### **8.1. Dalhousie Workplace Survey – Update**

J. Walsh, Acting AVP Human Resources, and J. MacInnis, Manager of Organizational Health, gave a presentation on the results of the recent Quality of Work Life (QWL) Survey conducted in April 2015. Following the presentation, they responded to questions focused on the survey process, the response rate, and the available breakdown of this information by employee group and demographic information. Ms. Walsh and Ms. MacInnis also spoke to initiatives now in progress to address the survey results.

### **8.2. Donor Gifts and Agreements**

P. Fardy, Vice-President Advancement, gave a presentation focused on the work of the Advancement unit, the sources and designations of donor gifts over the past decade, and Dalhousie's gift commitment process. Following the presentation, he responded to several questions from members. Mr. Fardy and Dr. Florizone highlighted the two most important principles that must be upheld in any discussion of donations and gifts – institutional autonomy and academic freedom; this is true with respect to research contracts as well. Dr. Florizone commented that Dalhousie wants to be an engaged university in terms of collaborating with industry and providing opportunities for students to learn, experience mentorship and find employment, but the University's responsibility is to structure this in a way that does not influence the teaching and research agenda, or hiring or other decisions.

Members expressed thanks for the presentation and noted that they were pleased, given the recent media attention to this area at other universities, to see how rigorous Dalhousie is about ensuring that donations and gifts align with the University's mission and the principles of academic freedom and institutional autonomy.

### **8.3. Board Standing Committee Reports**

L. Stordy referred members to the committee reports in the materials. C. Thomas, Chair of the Governance & Nominating Committee, spoke briefly to the governance review process, noting that the consultant undertaking the review will be at the Board retreat on December 10<sup>th</sup> to present his recommendations.

## **9. In Camera Session**

The Board moved to an *in camera* session.

## **8. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

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Lawrence Stordy, Chair

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Joyce Carter, Honorary Secretary