



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

***Approved Minutes of the Meeting (Open Session) held on
Tuesday, October 27, 2017, 3:00 p.m.
University Hall, Macdonald Building***

MEMBERS PRESENT: Larry Stordy (Chair), Amina Abawajy, Ian Bezanson, Cassandra Dorrington, Richard Florizone, Kati George-Jim, Elaine Gibson, Kevin Hewitt, Brenda Hogan, Laurie Jennings, Brian Johnston, Audrey Palmeto, Sherry Porter, Robert Richardson, Jeremy Ryant, Paula Simon, Candace Thomas

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

REGRETS: Joyce Carter, Robert (Bob) Hanf, Iain Klugman, Anne McLellan, Gail Tomblin Murphy, Michele Williams

GUESTS: Arig al Shaibah (Vice-Provost Student Affairs), Patti Doyle Bedwell (Professor/Native Studies Instructor, College of Continuing Education), Desiree Jones (Law Student), The Honorable Wanda Thomas Bernard (Independent Senator for Nova Scotia (East Preston)), Jasmine Walsh (AVP Human Resources), David Westwood (DFA Observer), Michelle Williams (Director, Indigenous Blacks & Mi'kmaq Initiative, Schulich School of Law), Andrea Power (Associate Secretary, Senate)

L. Stordy (Chair) welcomed all Board members, guests and visitors to the first meeting of the academic year. He particularly welcomed new Board members in attendance: Eleanor Bernard, Brenda Hogan and Brian Johnston. He also welcomed Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard who was present in the gallery. L. Stordy acknowledged that the university is on the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq people. He also recognized the upcoming 2018 year as the 200th anniversary of Dalhousie University.

Following opening remarks, L. Stordy invited Board member Kati George-Jim to offer some remarks. K. George-Jim then read a reflection of her experience at Dalhousie, as a member of the Dalhousie Board of Governors, and particularly her experience of the Board meeting held on June 27, 2017. She spoke to her concerns regarding systemic racism, the silencing of Indigenous women, and the need for the university to do better at all levels in terms of its commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Following this statement, L. Stordy thanked K. George-Jim and responded that he, as Board Chair, and the university will work to do better. P. Simon thanked K. George-Jim for her courage in speaking, offered a personal apology for not interjecting at the last meeting, and commented that she sees this an opportunity for the Board to increase its awareness.

1. Approval of Agenda

Moved by S. Porter, seconded by R. Richardson:

THAT the agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

2. Consent Agenda

2.1 Minutes of Meeting of June 27, 2017

THAT the Board of Governors approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, June 27, 2017 as presented.

Approved by CONSENT.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising.

4. Chair's Report

L. Stordy congratulated Gail Tomblin Murphy on being named by the Canadian Nurses Association as one of 150 Nurses for Canada, 150 nurse innovators and champions in health care from across Canada "who continue to pioneer health innovation in Canada and around the world". He noted that Dr. Tomblin Murphy was also recently appointed the Director of the School of Nursing and Assistant Dean Research in the Faculty of Health. L. Stordy also congratulated Alice Aiken on her appointment as Vice-President Research, effective September 1st, and welcomed her to the meeting.

L. Stordy noted the report of the Board Executive Committee in the meeting materials which reports on the meeting held in August to approve Dr. Aiken's appointment on behalf of the Board. At that meeting, the Executive Committee approved the following motion:

THAT the Board Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Governors, approve the appointment of Dr. Alice Aiken as Vice-President Research, for a term from September 1, 2017 to June 30, 2022.

5. President's Report

R. Florizone reported on several items in his report, including the recent very successful Homecoming event. With respect to Homecoming, he noted the concerns over the past several days over the large number of students who engaged in a weekend street party in an adjacent neighbourhood. He noted that the University is working to address the two main concerns, which are the safety of students (particularly with respect to excessive drinking), and relations with the university's neighbours. A meeting with the neighbours and Halifax Regional Police is planned for later today. Dalhousie is also consulting with other universities that have experienced similar events in connection with Homecoming and will consider how future Homecoming events at Dalhousie could be structured.

Dr. Florizone provided an update on the University Strategic Direction, highlighting progress through the four “Rs” of retention, research, returns to society and respect.

Following his report, members commented positively on the two recent articles co-authored by Dr. Florizone that received significant positive media coverage. Dr. Florizone responded that he would like to continue working with other universities to accomplish common goals.

A request was made to have a regular update at each Board meeting on what the university is doing in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report recommendations and the calls for action. It was noted that the Faculty of Law and other Faculties are making significant progress, but it would be helpful to have an update from an institutional perspective. Dr. Florizone responded that progress on the TRC recommendations is incorporated currently into the university's Culture of Respect progress on report recommendations (known as the PORR report), which reports twice-yearly on work that the university community is engaged in, in support of Dalhousie's Strategic Direction 5.2 (Foster a Collegial Culture Grounded in Diversity and Inclusiveness). Dr. Florizone proposed that this suggestion be considered further at the time of the presentation later in the meeting.

Dr. Florizone and Dr. C. Watters also responded to a query on the university's outlook on current student enrolment data.

6. Dalhousie Student Union President Report

A. Abawajy acknowledged that the University is on unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. A. Abawajy circulated her report to the members of the Board, noting that she will be taking a new approach whereby she will continue to provide the traditional updates on Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) activities and initiatives, but that each report will also have a theme. The theme of the report circulated at today's meeting is colonization, racialization, and indigenizing the academy. She noted the 11 recommendations contained on page two of the report.

Following the report, several members thanked A. Abawajy for the new approach and the helpful glossary of terms included. R. Florizone commented that it is excellent when the DSU and the administration can find common ground on which to move forward and he noted that the university is continuing to find ways to work with the DSU through the 5.2 Committee and initiatives. He noted that because of the various governance structures within the university, there can be different ways to move forward that involve Senate, Faculties, administration, academic staff and students.

7. Items for Decision

7.1 Ocean Tracking Network (OTN) – Funding Agreement Proposal

A. Palmetter, on behalf of the Finance, Audit, Investment and Risk Committee, introduced the item. The agreement presented meets the threshold for Board approval as set out in the University's Document Execution/Contract Signing Authority Policy in that the agreement has a face value of \$10 million or greater.

Moved by A. Palmetter, seconded by R. Richardson:

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Finance, Audit, Investment & Risk Committee, approve a five-year funding agreement between Dalhousie and the Canada Foundation for Innovation (“CFI”) to provide additional funding to the research project network entitled “Ocean Tracking Network” (“OTN”).

CARRIED.

7.2 Ocean Frontier Institute (OFI) – Dalhousie-Memorial Sub-Agreement

A. Palmeter, on behalf of the Finance, Audit, Investment and Risk Committee, introduced the item. This item meets the threshold for Board approval as set out in the University's Document Execution/Contract Signing Authority Policy in that the agreement has a face value of \$10 million or greater.

Following presentation of the motion, R. Florizone addressed a brief question of clarification. He noted that the project is not without risk, but there is a major benefit if successfully implemented. The OFI has a strong governance framework in place and risk is managed well through this structure. He noted that the OFI is monitored closely and that the university's executive team continues to stay on top of developments. Additionally, the university has prioritized the hiring a new scientific director for OFI.

Moved by A. Palmeter, seconded by C. Dorrington:

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Finance, Audit, Investment & Risk Committee, approve a seven-year research sub-agreement between Dalhousie and Memorial University to provide research funding to Memorial in relation to the Ocean Frontier Institute ("OFI").

CARRIED.

8. Items for Information

8.1 Diversity and Inclusiveness Strategy

J. Walsh and M. Williams presented on Diversity & Inclusiveness at Dalhousie (Strategic Priority 5.2), including the work to develop a diversity strategy, the resulting framework for diversity, key tasks for 2018, measures of success and project milestones. During the presentation it was noted that the challenge is taking a framework for an entire institution and working to make it "real". It is important to give life to the current recommendations, but also to modify these and bring forward new ones as they arise. The importance of having measures was also noted – i.e. how will Dalhousie know when it has been successful and how does the strategy adjust accordingly. The presenters also noted the importance of working to make the strategy and the framework "core" to Dalhousie so that the work is not "piece-meal" or "off the side of the desk"; this takes a great deal of work, but it is important in terms of making progress and seeing change.

Members thanked J. Walsh and M. Williams for the excellent presentation and congratulated them on the work to date. It was acknowledged that there is much work to be done, but Dalhousie appears to be well ahead of other boards and organizations in this area. Discussion and questions focused on the importance of laying out the plan so that it is a longer-term vision, the challenge of determining metrics for success, the importance and challenges of collecting student data, and some of the diversity initiatives undertaken recent by the Senate. One member noted the language adopted at other Canadian and U.S. institutions and supported by quantitatively dramatic outcomes outlined in the text being used to establish the 5.2 framework. In response, it was proposed that this suggestion be referred to the 5.2 Committee. One member reminded the Board that the Board's role is to operate at a governance level and that there is also Board representation on the 5.2 Committee; as a Board, it is important to respect the work of the various committees that have been put in place.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Dr. Florizone noted that the PORR report referenced earlier is produced twice a year (December and June). He proposed that, going forward, there also be a report on 5.2 and that this perhaps pick up the idea of “Top 10 progress” and “Top 10 priorities”. It was agreed that the recommendations in the DSU report distributed today be shared with the 5.2 Committee. There was also a request that the report include progress on the TRC recommendations and it was noted that the six-month frequency seems appropriate.

8.2 Board Standing Committee Reports

L. Stordy noted the various committee reports included in the materials. The Capital Projects and Facilities Committee provided a brief update on several major capital projects, including a photographic presentation of the IDEA/Sexton Campus renewal project.

9. *In Camera* Session

The Board moved to an *in-camera* session.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.