



BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Approved Minutes of the Meeting (Open Session) held on
Tuesday, February 12, 2019, 3:00 p.m.
University Hall, Macdonald Building

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lawrence (Larry) Stordy (Chair), Ian Bezanson, Joyce Carter, Cassandra Dorrington, Robert (Bob) Hanf, Kevin Hewitt, Brenda Hogan, Chris Huskilson, Peter MacKinnon, Carolan McLarney, Kathleen Olds, Aubrey Palmeter, Aaron Prosper, Robert Richardson, Jeremy Ryant, Candace Thomas

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alice Aiken (Vice-President, Research & Innovation), Teresa Balsler (Provost and Vice-President, Academic), Peter Fardy (Vice-President, Advancement), Ian Nason (Vice-President, Finance and Administration), Susan Brousseau (University Secretary)

REGRETS:

Eleanor Bernard, Elaine Gibson, Joyce Hoeven, Laurie Jennings, Brian Johnston, Iain Klugman, Anne McLellan, Sherry Porter, Michele Williams

GUESTS:

Catherine Bagnell Styles (Assistant Vice-President, Communications & Marketing), Susan Robertson (Assistant Vice-President, Financial Services), David Westwood (DFA Observer), Sundari Pashupathi (Associate Secretary of Senate), Cheryl MacDonald (Board Governance Assistant)

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

2. Consent Agenda

All items on the Consent Agenda were approved.

2.1 Minutes of the Meeting of November 27, 2018

THAT the Board of Governors approve the minutes of the meeting of November 27, 2018 as presented.

Approved by CONSENT.

2.2 Delegation of Minor Policy Amendments

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Governance and Human Resources Committee, approve the delegation of minor, non-substantial changes to university policies requiring Board approval to the University Secretary as follows:

- a. Amendments to reflect approved changes in position titles (where the duties and responsibilities under the new title are essentially unchanged);
- b. Amendments to reflect approved new or amended Faculty, department or unit names;
- c. Amendments to reflect approved new or amended Policy titles;
- d. Amendments to incorporate gender neutral language; and
- e. Amendments to update references to website links included within policies.

Approved by CONSENT.

2.3 Items from Senate:

2.3.1 Senate Policy for Faculty Reviews of Academic Programs

THAT the Board of Governors approve the new Senate Policy for Faculty Reviews of Academic Programs as presented.

Approved by CONSENT.

Following approval, K. Hewitt spoke to item 2.3.1, emphasizing the significance of this policy as an important step towards ensuring that Dalhousie's reputation for high-quality programs is maintained and enhanced. The policy provides a coordinated and consistent approach to the review of undergraduate and graduate programs and is important in its alignment with Dalhousie's Strategic Direction (particularly strategic priority 1.4), and the Board's ad hoc Financial Planning Committee report. The requirements of the policy reflect a "made in Dalhousie" approach and go beyond the requirements of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC).

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business noted.

4. Chair's Report

L. Stordy welcomed P. MacKinnon to his first Board meeting as interim President, and extended congratulations to J. Carter on recently being named the 2019 winner in the Business Leader of the Year category at the Halifax Business Awards.

L. Stordy referred Board members to the Report of the Executive Committee in the meeting materials and the two motions approved on behalf of the Board, effective January 10, 2019. The motions are as follows:

Motion 1:

THAT the Executive Committee, on the behalf of the Board, and on the recommendation of the Governance and Human Resources Committee, approve the appointment of Joyce Hoeven as the Board representative on the search committee for the Assistant Vice-Provost and Registrar effective as of the date of Board approval.

Motion 2:

THAT the Executive Committee, on the behalf of the Board, and on the recommendation of the Governance and Human Resources Committee, approve the appointment of Sherry Porter as the Board representative on the search committee for the Assistant Vice-President Development effective as of the date of Board approval.

L. Stordy then called on J. Ryant to note several recent accomplishments and successes achieved by various Dalhousie varsity teams.

5. President's Report

P. MacKinnon extended his congratulations to Dr. Anne-Marie Ryan, Department of Earth Sciences, who was recently awarded a 3M National Teaching Fellowship. This prestigious national award was created by the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education to recognize exceptional teachers in post-secondary education.

P. MacKinnon noted the work he has undertaken on a report for the Board that will consider what a sustainable future for Dalhousie might look like over the next 10-15 years. His work will include an examination of current public policy on post-secondary education, as well as university policy, and will involve close collaboration with the senior executive team.

P. MacKinnon referred committee members to his report provided in the meeting materials, highlighting the recent U15 executive heads meeting he attended, which was also attended by several federal government officials. Discussions included such issues as the indirect costs of research, university preparedness for the coming shift in workforce needs, and the global situation particularly with respect to current relationships with China.

6. Dalhousie Student Union President's Report

A. Prosper presented the results of the recent student survey undertaken by the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU). The results will be used to ensure that future planning and actions taken reflect the needs of students. Notable results included the number of students who use the food bank - an area which would benefit from additional support - and the alienation and lack of connection felt by some graduate and mature students as well as those who study on satellite campuses (Carleton, Sexton and Agriculture).

Following the presentation, A. Prosper responded to questions on possible initiatives to address feelings of student alienation and the concerns around food security. In response to questions, A. Prosper confirmed that the intention is to conduct the survey on an annual basis.

7. Items for Decision

7.1 Investment Committee Report – Fossil Fuel Investment Review

J. Carter introduced the report, referencing the motion approved by the Board at the February 2018 Board meeting that asked the Investment Committee (IC) to assess a third-party search for fossil-free investment funds for Dalhousie to conduct its dealings with, and to report these findings to the Finance, Audit, Investment and Risk Committee (FAIR). She spoke to the work over the past year; during this period FAIR received regular reports from the IC and supported the proposed scope of work and timeline presented by the IC. The full draft report was presented to the FAIR Committee for review on January 22, 2019, at which time it was unanimously agreed that the report be recommended to the Board for adoption.

A. Palmeter, Board member and Chair of the Investment Committee, thanked the Senate Ad Hoc Committee and student Board member Kathleen Olds for their constructive and collaborative contributions to the work of the IC in preparing the report. He noted the importance of K. Old's contribution in situating the discussion in terms of the reality and threat of climate change. He then highlighted the review activities undertaken by the Investment Committee and briefly outlined the recommendations contained within the report.

Following this presentation, several members thanked the IC for their significant work to prepare the report. The importance of climate change to current students was underscored, as well as the view that Dalhousie can be a leader on this issue going forward. K. Hewitt indicated that, if approved by the Board, the report would be brought to Senate for its endorsement. He noted that this report is an example of how the Board of Governors and Senate can work together on important issues.

Moved by J. Carter, seconded by K. Olds:

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Finance, Audit, Investment and Risk Committee, adopt the Fossil Fuel Investment Review by the Investment Committee as presented.

CARRIED.

Following approval of the motion, A. Palmeter expressed his thanks to the staff, particularly Colin Spinney, University Treasurer, who provided excellent support to the Committee throughout the review process.

8. Items for Information

8.1 Board Standing Committee Reports

L. Stordy referred members to the reports of several committees in the meeting package. There were no questions on the reports.

8.2 Dalhousie 200th Anniversary – Final Report

C. Bagnell Styles presented a final report on the Dalhousie 200th anniversary celebrations. Board members congratulated her and her team, and all those across the University, who contributed to the very successful year of events and initiatives. Members also spoke to the other benefits of the year and the importance of using the platform provided by the 200th anniversary to build on initiatives going forward. Members also noted the importance of maintaining the momentum around such areas as student recruitment and enrolment, and alumni, donor and community engagement.

9. In Camera Session

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

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.