

Item: Board of Governors Minutes, February 2008  
Call Number: UA-1

Additional Notes:

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## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

### Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, February 19, 2008 University Hall, Macdonald Building

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** James Cowan (Chair), Jay Abbass, Elizabeth Beale, William Black, Level Chan, Robert Chisholm, Lorne Clarke, Richard Evans, Lloyd Fraser, Lynn Irving, Nancy MacCready-Williams, Cathy MacNutt, Sunny Marche, Don Mills, Robert Radchuck, David Russell, Chris Smith, Jim Spatz, Lawrence Stordy, Bruce Towler, Tom Traves, Shannon Zimmerman, and Susan Brousseau (University Secretary)

**REGRETS:** Jim Wilson

**NON-MEMBERS:** Carl Breckenridge, Ken Burt, Lee Crowell, Floyd Dykeman, Donna Gillis, Jeff Lamb, Alan Shaver, Heather Williamson

#### 1. Approval of the Agenda

T. Traves proposed that one item be added to the agenda under the *in camera* session: Appointment of Vice-President Research.

Moved by T. Traves, seconded by B. Towler:

**THAT the agenda be approved as amended.**

**The motion was CARRIED.**

#### 2. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held on November 27, 2007

Moved by L. Clarke, seconded by S. Marche:

**THAT the minutes of the meeting held on November 27, 2007 be approved as distributed.**

**The motion was CARRIED.**

#### 3. President's Report

T. Traves referred Board members to his written report distributed with the agenda package and briefly highlighted several items. He noted that the recent tentative contact settlements with the Dalhousie Faculty Association and the Nova Scotia Government Employees Union, which are before the Board for consideration today, represent a transition point for the University in terms of labour relations. He noted that, in past, the University has sometimes experienced difficult industrial relations around contract negotiations, but, more recently, there is a new attitude about collective bargaining that is very encouraging and something that we need to continue to build on.

Dr. Traves reported that the universities are in the middle of discussions with the provincial government on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for a new three-year funding agreement. The discussions are going reasonably well and he is optimistic about the outcome for Dalhousie and for the entire system. Details should be available for the April Board meeting.

Dr. Traves also made note of two other forward-looking items: the University's plan to move forward with a campus planning process during this period of significant campus renewal, and the University's rapidly evolving plans for its major capital campaign. He noted that both of these matters are on the agenda for presentation and discussion today.

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

S. Zimmerman presented a verbal report on behalf of the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU). She noted that student union and society representatives met with the Board Student Experience Committee on February 13<sup>th</sup> and that the response to this event from students was very positive. She also noted that the DSU Annual Meeting will be held on February 20<sup>th</sup> and annual elections will take place in March. Ms. Zimmerman also noted that the DSU is a member of the Halifax Students Association which recently conducted a survey examining crime and safety and how safe students feel on campus and in Halifax. One of the most striking results of this survey was the fact that quite a number of students reported that they witnessed or were involved in a crime in the last six months but they did not report it to the authorities.

Ms. Zimmerman advised Board members that *The Rick Mercer Report* this week would feature Mr. Mercer's recent visit to the Dalhousie campus. His visit was the result of the success of Dalhousie students in raising over \$17,000 for the "Spread the Net" Campaign which raises funds for mosquito nets in malaria-prone areas of Africa.

In response to a question about security concerns on campus and a recent robbery outside Risley Hall, T. Traves noted a variety of measures that have been taken in recent years to improve security on campus. He noted that he does not believe that there has been an increase this year in these kinds of criminal activities on campus over the past couple of years, but he can report back on that matter.

#### **Items for Decision**

#### **5. Pension Plan Amendments**

L. Clarke, Chair of the Human Resources Committee, outlined proposed changes to Rule 7 and Rule 19 of the Dalhousie Pension Plan and the background to these changes. He noted that the employee groups have confirmed their agreement to these changes.

It was noted that, in future, it might make sense for such recommendations to come to the Board for approval before they go to the employee groups for acceptance. In response to a question about the financial impact of the retroactive approval of Rule 7, it was reported that the estimated cost to the University (based on approximately 40 affected employees), would be about \$80,000-\$90,000, and that the employer share will be covered by the employee's department.

Moved by L. Clarke, seconded by J. Abbass:

**THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Human Resources Committee, approve the amendments to Rule 7 and Rule 19 the Dalhousie Pension Plan as presented.**

**The motion was CARRIED.**

The Board moved *in camera* for the next portion of the meeting. During this session the Board approved the following motions:

**THAT the Board of Governors ratify the Collective Agreement between the Dalhousie University Board of Governors and the Dalhousie Faculty Association for the period July 1, 2007 to and including June 30, 2011. [Carried with three abstentions]**

**THAT the Board of Governors ratify the Collective Agreement between the Dalhousie University Board of Governors and the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union for the period July 1, 2007 to and including June 30, 2010.**

**THAT the Board of Governors approve the renaming of the Computer Science Building as the Golberg Computer Science Building.**

**THAT the Board of Governors approve the appointment of Mr. Fred Fountain as Chancellor of Dalhousie University for a three year term, effective May 20, 2008.**

**THAT the Board of Governors approve the appointment of Dr. Martha Crago as Vice-President Research for a five year term, effective July 1, 2008.**

The Board moved back into open session for the remainder of the meeting.

### **Items for Information**

#### **8. Budget Advisory Committee Update**

A. Shaver, Vice-President Academic and Provost, provided an update on the work of the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC), noting that the recent settlement of the collective agreements with the DFA and NSGEU bargaining units has helped to firm up assumptions on the expenditures side. He reported that the Memorandum of Understanding with the Province is still in development and while the BAC is trying to build a range of scenarios, this is difficult until further information on the MOU is available. As a result, the BAC's next report will be later this year, but it is anticipated that it will come before the Board at the April meeting.

Dr. Shaver noted that the BAC has carried out a tuition review and has looked at Dalhousie's fees in the context of its comparator group. BAC has determined that not much has changed since last year and a tuition freeze is still under consideration. Currently, the Committee's assumption is that overall enrolment will be down about 150 students, but with the flow-through of increased first-year enrolments, the University will start to see an increase in total enrolment. Dr. Shaver also noted with respect to enrolment that the Enrolment Management Committee is continuing its work and will be bringing a report forward as well; this is likely to include recommendations for some new activities.

In addition to the above issues, the BAC has also spent time examining the issue of deferred maintenance and will be starting a review of the ERBA formula (through a working group drawn from the BAC membership).

## **9. Campus Planning Process**

J. Lamb, Director of Facilities Management, made a presentation on the proposed campus planning exercise, noting that the Board previously approved funding for this project. He reviewed the history of the last planning exercise in 1991, and the major areas of campus development since it was introduced. He noted that assumptions have changed since the last plan was developed, that the University has a strategic plan that will provide direction to facilities growth and development, and that there is more awareness and concern about sustainability. He reviewed the schedule for development and implementation of a new plan, reporting that meetings of the steering committee will begin almost immediately. A Request for Proposals (RFP) will be developed to assist in selecting a consulting team. The consulting phase will likely continue until January 2009 and it is anticipated that the entire planning process will take at least two years. He noted that the Board will receive updates at regular intervals.

## **10. Standing Committee Reports**

R. Chisholm, Chair of the Student Experience Committee, noted that the Committee met with Dalhousie Student Council and Society representatives on February 13th. The focus of the session was student retention and the Committee hopes to have some further information to report at a later date. L. Clarke referred to the report of the Human Resources Committee in the agenda package and noted the very positive grievance experience reported for the staff and faculty bargaining units.

## **11. Motion to Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.