

Item: Board of Governors Minutes, May 1981

Call Number: UA-1 27.4

Additional Notes:

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Minutes of a Meeting of the
Board of Governors held on
this date in the Council
Chamber of the Faculty of
Medicine at 4 p.m.

Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia
May 28, 1981.

PRESENT: Dr. A. Gordon Archibald
Chairman
Miss Zilpha Linkletter
Vice-Chairman
Dr. W. Andrew MacKay
Dr. Donna Curry
Dr. G. Ritchie Douglas
Dr. Douglas A. Eisner
Mrs. Lorraine Green
Dr. Lorraine Laurence

Mr. G.R.K. Lynch
Mrs. Jean McKeigan
Mr. J.A. MacKenzie
Ms. Heather Robertson
Mrs. Judy Sapp
Mr. Atul Sharma
Mr. John S. Logan
Mr. Geoffrey Seymour
Edwin F. Ross, M.D.
Honorary Secretary

Also present at the meeting were Mr. L.R. Shaw (Vice-President, Administration & Finance), Dr. G.A. Klassen (Vice-President, Academic & Research), Dr. D.M. Cameron (Executive Director of Policy & Planning), Dr. A.M. Sinclair (Chairman of the Senate), Professor Christopher Axworthy (President of Dalhousie Faculty Association), Mr. Derek Mann (Director of Information), Mr. Otto Nofhle (Manager of Financial Services), and Mr. Earl Wambolt (Director of Budget Office).

Introduction
of New Members

The Chairman introduced the following who were attending their first meeting: Mr. John Logan and Mr. Geoffrey Seymour from the Student Union and Miss Mary Lamb and Mr. Wesley Campbell from the Alumni Association.

Approval of
Alumni Nominees

The Board approved the following nominees to represent the Alumni Association on the Board of Governors (in addition to those whose terms had not expired):

Mr. Wesley G. Campbell
Dr. Douglas A. Eisner
Miss Mary L.C. Lamb
Ms. Heather Robertson (Continuing to fill the
elected position of Dr.
Donna Curry, the new
President of the Association)

Dr. C.B. Stewart (The new Vice-President of the
Association).

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Board on April 23rd,
1981 were approved as distributed.

Governor-in-Council Appointments

The President explained that the Officers of the Board had not met to consider the Governor-in-Council appointments being vacated by those whose terms expired on April 30th because he had not been able to complete his discussions on this matter with the Premier and the Minister of Education. Dr. MacKay said that he hoped to be able to do this in the next ten days.

Representatives on Mount Saint Vincent Board

Nomination of representatives of the Board to the Board of Governors, Mount Saint Vincent, was postponed to a future meeting.

Schedule of Meetings for 1981-82

The Governors had received a proposed schedule of meetings for 1981-82 at an earlier meeting and they now approved it.

Staff Matters

The Staff Relations Committee, under the Chairmanship of Judge Green, had met the day before and now, in the absence of Judge Green at this meeting, Dr. MacKay conveyed the recommendations for approval of the "Staff Matters" in the hands of the Members of the Board. This approval was given.

The President noted the appointment of Dr. John G. Aldous as Professor Emeritus in the Faculty of Medicine and of Dr. Philip S. Christie as Professor Emeritus in the Faculty of Dentistry.

Please note: Effective date for appointment of Dr. A.D.J. O'Neill, new part-time appointee in the Faculty of Arts and Science, should have been shown as July 1, 1981.

Investment Changes

On motion (S. Robertson/MacKay), investment changes as circulated at the meeting were approved.

Approval for Secretary of Investment Committee to sign proxies

In order to expedite matters, the Investment Committee had requested that Mr. Ted Nichols, its secretary, be authorized to sign proxies for investments of the University Endowment Funds and the University Staff Pension Fund. This authority was given.

Budget

Miss Linkletter reported that the Finance & Budget Committee had met earlier in the afternoon to discuss the

Budget and she now asked the President, who was also at the meeting, to report to the Board. With the assistance of Mr. Shaw, he went over the University's present financial situation, with the help of two documents:

- a) Memorandum from Mr. Shaw to the President titled: "1980-81 Year-End Results", May 27th, 1981.
- b) "University Summary Budget v/s Actual 80-81 & Budget 81-82" (May 25, 1981)

Dr. MacKay said that it appeared now that the deficit for 1980-81 would be approximately \$3.7 m. Mr. Shaw went over Appendix "A" of item (a) above which under the headings of "Expenditures" and "Income" and sub-headings, "Over Budget" and "Under Budget" showed in thousands of dollars where the deficit problem had arisen.

Mr. Shaw, without avoiding his responsibility, noted that the University up to this point had a relatively unsophisticated budget process and financial information system. He explained that the recently developed budget process and new financial information system should ensure that major variances from budget at year end should not reoccur.

The Vice-President pointed out that much of the budget overages in the year end statement would carry over in 1981-82 and would mean that the deficit for 1981-82 would now exceed \$3.0 m.

Dr. MacKay said that it was obviously a very difficult situation to face and that the Administration and the Finance and Budget Committee were seeking information from consultants on measures that might be taken. These might include selling property owned by the University, selling a portion of the endowment fund, minimizing the cost of borrowed funds, and establishing policies to avoid recurrence of the present situation.

The President said that he hoped that the recommendations of the consultants would be available after study by the Administration for discussion at a future meeting, probably the last week in June.

Dr. MacKay said that there would be discussions with the Maritime Provinces Higher Education concerning the application of the Commission's policy of withholding operating grants of universities whose deficits exceed established limits.

At this point, the Chairman affirmed that the financial problem must be solved. At the same time, he warned the Governors that the University was by no means "broke" with an endowment of \$64 m. He enjoined the members of the Board to confidentiality in order to prevent misleading rumours about the University's situation being circulated publicly.

The Rink

On behalf of Mr. Brown, who was not able to be at the meeting, Mr. Shaw reported on the progress with the new rink which he noted that the Board members could now see being constructed. He said that the budget for the rink was holding so far.

Staff Benefits-
Tuition Fee
Reduction

On motion by Mrs. Green, the Chairman of the Board's Staff Benefits Committee, it was approved that children of divorced or separated parents employed by the University would be included in the fifty per cent tuition fee waiver granted to the dependents of full-time employees of the University as a result of negotiations with the Dalhousie Staff Association. After being seconded by the President, this motion was approved.

Increase in Fees-
Dalhousie Medical
Student Society

Mr. Logan, on behalf of the Medical Students Society, asked for approval of an increase in the Society's fee from \$7 to \$18 (which would be collected by the University under a previous arrangement). He explained that this means of financing had been approved by the society in order to replace an informal system which was not working satisfactorily. The increase was approved.

Correspondence

Dr. Fraser Nicholson had written to the Board to express his "deepest thanks" for the honour done to him by the Board in granting him Emeritus status.

Report from
the President

Dr. MacKay said that he wished:

- 1) to thank many people in the University and others for their assistance to him and the University in recent convocation events;

- 2) the Board to know that from comments from persons attending the annual meetings of the Learned Societies (at Dalhousie this year), it would appear that they were very much impressed with the facilities and pleased with their reception here; and
- 3) to ask approval of the Board for a memorial to be prepared by the President and the Secretary to go to the family of the late Colonel S.R. Balcom and to be included in the minutes.

Dr. Archibald complimented the President on his conducting of the convocations. In particular, he thought that the identifying of the families of graduates was an excellent idea and he also noted the friendly but dignified atmosphere prevailing.

Equity/Bond
Ratio

In response to a question from Mr. Lynch, Mr. Shaw said that the University's investments were distributed 68% in equities and 32% in bonds.

Medical Class
of '81

Dr. Ross drew the attention of the Board to the pledge made by the 1981 Graduating Class in Medicine to contribute to the Medical Research Foundation.

Input by Student
Relations Committee
to Decisions on
Raising of Fees

Mr. Logan expressed the conviction that the Student Relations & Residence Committee should become more formally involved and participate from the beginning in discussions that lead to decisions on tuition fee increases. The Board agreed to his request that the Student Relations Committee should be asked to consider how this might be accomplished and to report back to the Board.

The President said that former student members of the Board, Messrs. Owen and McFarlane should be invited, if available, to assist in these discussions because of their recent experience.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:15 p.m.

Edwin F. Ross, M.D.
Honorary Secretary