

Item: Board of Governors Minutes, September 1982

Call Number: UA-1 27.1

Additional Notes:

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Minutes of a Meeting of the
Board of Governors held on Thursday,
September 23, 1982 in the Board
and Senate Room at 4:00 p.m.

Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia

PRESENT: Dr. A. Gordon Archibald, Chairman	Mrs. Shirlee Medjuck
Mr. W. G. Campbell	Mrs. Ruth Murray
Mr. G. T. H. Cooper	Mr. G. C. Piercey
Mr. James S. Cowan	Mr. Peter Rans
Dr. Donna Curry	Mr. David Ritcey
Dr. D. A. Eisner	Ms. Heather Robertson
Mr. Brian Flemming	Mr. W. Struan Robertson, Honorary Treasurer
Mr. John W. Graham	Dr. Edwin F. Ross, Honorary Secretary
Miss Zilpha Linkletter, Vice-Chairman	Mr. A. Sharma
Miss Elizabeth A. Macdonald	Mr. R. G. Smith
Ms. M. D. MacDonald	Dr. C. B. Stewart
Dr. W. A. MacKay	Dr. R. C. D. Stewart
Mr. P. McDonough	Mrs. Peggy Weld
Mr. S. McInnes	

Also present were Messrs. G. A. Klassen (Vice-President, Academic and Research), L. R. Shaw (Vice-President, Administration and Finance), D. M. Cameron (Director, Policy and Planning), A. M. Sinclair (Chairman of Senate), D. Mann (Director of Information and Public Relations), O. P. Kamra (President, Dalhousie Faculty Association), M. Wright (Director of Finance), and A. J. Tingley (Secretary).

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved, after it was agreed that the terms of office of the following members are as shown below, rather than as reported in the Board Matters item in the May 20, 1982 minutes:

Elizabeth A. Macdonald -- two year appointment to 1984
Mrs. P. Weld -- one year appointment to 1983.

President's
Introductory
Remarks

The President advised that the final decision of the government with respect to cutbacks has not yet been received. He referred particularly to the financing of health education.

Board Membership

The President reported that the following has been nominated by Mount Saint Vincent University to be one of the representatives on the Dalhousie Board of Governors:

Mrs. Judith Sapp

This nomination was approved.

Board Membership
(continued)

The following have been nominated as Alumni representatives:

Dr. C. B. Stewart -- three year appointment
Dr. Donna Curry -- one year appointment

It was agreed that the Officers of the Board may proceed to find candidates for nomination to the Mount Saint Vincent Board of Governors and for various committees of the Board. Nominations will be brought to the Board at a future meeting.

Academic Matters

Interdisciplinary Ph.D. -- Recommendation of Senate

Dr. G. A. Klassen reported that the Senate has recommended that an interdisciplinary programme leading to a Ph.D. should be introduced. It is anticipated that very few students will be involved, no more than two to be admitted per year with a maximum enrollment of ten. The Senate has also recommended that the programme be reviewed in ten years or when five students have completed the programme, whichever comes first.

It was agreed to recommend this programme to the M.P.H.E.C. It was understood that the proposal will be brought before the Board again before implementation.

Students of the Atlantic Institute of Education

Dr. Klassen advised that Dalhousie has been requested to consider arrangements to permit the students who have already begun their programmes at the Atlantic Institute of Education to complete the programmes for which commitments have already been made. He recommended that approval in principle be given, on terms that he outlined.

Approval in principle was granted, it being understood that there will be further negotiations and clarification.

Applied Microelectronics Institute

This Institute has been formed in partnership with the Technical University of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Research Foundation. Final Senate approval has not yet been given. It was agreed that the President may take steps to obtain letters patent. It was also agreed that the following will be nominated as Directors:

Dr. D. D. Betts
Mr. Walter Miller
Dr. Willard Boyle

Academic Matters
(continued)

The President pointed out that T.U.N.S. and the Nova Scotia Research Foundation will each also be nominating three Directors.

Staff Relations
Committee Report

Changes in Administrative and Faculty Appointments

Staff changes as presented on behalf of Judge Green, who was absent, were approved, after two minor amendments were made (incorporated in the file copy).

The President referred to the passing of Dr. F. R. Hayes, Dr. J. P. McGuigan, and Mr. George Unwin, each of whom has made significant contributions to Dalhousie. A memorial service for Dr. Hayes will be held in the King's Chapel at 3:00 p.m., Saturday, September 25, 1982.

It was agreed that expressions of sympathy be communicated as appropriate.

Audit Committee
Report

A draft report of the university's auditors had been circulated. Mr. George Piercey pointed out that discussions with auditors were not fully completed. A final report will be presented at a future Board meeting. The interim report was accepted.

Budget and
Finance Committee

Government Grants

Mr. Shaw reviewed the situation with respect to government funding. Cuts recently made by the government have been partially, but only partially, restored. Formal advice as to the final position of the government has not yet been received.

Sale of Property

Certain property has been sold. Additional sales are planned, but are not being carried out as fast as had been hoped, due to the unsatisfactory real estate market.

Forrest Building

Mr. Shaw reported in the absence of Mr. Brown. The demolition of the Forrest Building necessary before any contract for renovation can be leased has not yet been carried out, as word from the government with respect to financing the work has not yet been received. It is hoped that approval will be received

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Budget and
Finance Committee
(continued)

within a very few days, otherwise the expected date of completion will be placed in jeopardy.

Memorial Arena

The Memorial Arena is now in operation, and is proving satisfactory. The President indicated that the planning of a ceremony to mark the opening of the arena was underway and members would be advised when plans are settled.

Development
Fund

A document giving an update on the planning of this fund was circulated to those present, and a copy is on file in the office of the Secretary.

Bequests

A list of bequests received recently was circulated. There was general expression of appreciation for the gifts.

Pension Fund

A memorandum concerning certain recent changes in the Pension Fund was circulated to those present, and was explained by the President. These changes have already been approved by Revenue Canada. Concern has now been expressed by some members of the Investment Committee.

It was agreed to refer this matter to the Executive Committee for consideration and recommendations.

Comments --
Chairman of
Senate

The Chairman of Senate, Dr. A. M. Sinclair, advised that the Senate, through its Academic Planning Committee, is now reviewing new programmes more critically than before. Also, efforts are being made to determine whether financial constraints are having adverse effects on academic programmes.

Comments --
President of the
Student Union

Mr. P. Rans thanked all members of the Board who took part in the Convocation held on September 8, 1982. He also expressed concern about the Student Aid package now in place, and indicated that he will raise this matter again.

Submission to the
M.P.H.E.C.

A copy of the annual submission had been circulated to all members. The President pointed out some items of particular interest.

Confidential

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Registration
1982/83 --
Preliminary Report

Figures were given by the President of the full and part time students now registered, together with comparable figures for last year. He pointed out that registration is still continuing, and there will be some attrition, so it is too early to be certain of the final figures. Indications are that there is a considerable increase, particularly in Arts and Science.

It was pointed out by Mr. Shaw that it does not necessarily follow that there is an improvement in the financial situation. It has been found necessary to authorize the appointment of additional part-time instructors to take care of the increased enrollment.

President's
Report

The President reported as follows:

- (1) A special Convocation had been held to mark the opening of the Dental Building. This simultaneously marked 75 years of operation of the Faculty of Dentistry.
- (2) The Faculty of Law will celebrate its centennial in 1983.
- (3) The Convocation for new students held on September 8, 1982 attracted large numbers of students and others.
- (4) A group of Zimbabwe public servants were based at Dalhousie for several weeks during the summer, during which period they travelled to various points in Canada. Funding was from CIDA.
- (5) A group interested in Ocean Management, also from the Third World, and also funded by CIDA, spent several weeks at Dalhousie.
- (6) Biologists interested in shellfish from a number of Third World countries visited Dalhousie during the summer. Funding was from CIDA.
- (7) The Joint Oceanographic Assembly, which was held in Halifax, brought a significant number of the world's leading scientists in this field to the area for a two-week conference. This is the first time the conference was held outside of a major city, and the first time it was held in a place where scientists working in the field are based.
- (8) The Elderhostel Programme brought three groups of senior citizens to the campus.
- (9) An immersion course in English for francophones, sponsored by the Secretary of State, took place on the campus for the

President's
Report
(continued)

tenth consecutive year.

(10) Dalplex was used for some of the events when the Wheel Chair Games were held in Halifax this summer, although most of the activities were at Saint Mary's.

(11) Negotiations are proceeding with a view to transferring our programme in Engineering Physics to the Technical University of Nova Scotia.

(12) Dr. and Mrs. MacKay visited in Pictou to meet two visiting grandsons of the Reverend Thomas MacCulloch, first president of Dalhousie.

(13) Discussions aimed at improving cooperation among metropolitan universities are continuing. A written review will be provided.

(14) The President, Deans, Officers of Senate, and others are taking the financial situation very seriously, and are working to develop procedures to deal with the difficulties.

Collective
Bargaining

Dr. O. Kamra, President of the Dalhousie Faculty Association, presented a petition concerning the negotiations with the DFA, which he stated had been signed by 442 DFA members. A copy is on file in the Secretary's office. Dr. Kamra then withdrew from the meeting.

The President reported on negotiations with the I.U.O.E. It was agreed that the agreement negotiated should be ratified, and the Officers of the University were empowered to sign.

There is no progress with respect to negotiations with the CUPE union.

Dr. D. Cameron reported on the DFA negotiations. These are proceeding slowly. He outlined certain points of difference.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

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To Members of the Board of Governors

The Dalhousie University Staff Pension Scheme
Segregated Sub Fund for Direct Payment of Pensions
and Trustees for Sub Fund

At its meeting of February 18, 1982 the Board approved, on the recommendation of the Pension Advisory Committee, amendments to the Staff Pension Scheme to provide for direct payment of pensions to retiring staff. Direct payment had been recommended by the University's actuary in the last triennial review of the operations of the pension scheme in 1979. In consideration of this proposal in the Pension Advisory Committee it was recognized that the interests of retired staff would differ over time from those of continuing staff contributors, that investment policies supporting their differing interests might well differ and in recognition that pensions paid to retired staff in the past had not provided for periodic increases despite continuing inflation, it was proposed that arrangements be made for possible "indexing" of pension payments in relation to performance of the fund supporting the payments. Thus the recommendation was made for creating a separate sub fund to pay pensions directly to retired staff and to permit increases in pension payments to be made from time to time in light of earnings of the sub fund.

The proposal was submitted for approval of government agencies. On the basis of informal approval by them the sub fund was created July 1, 1982 for staff retiring at that time. Formal approval by Revenue Canada was given in August. The sub fund provides for increases in pension payments to be made in any year in light of earnings, less 6%, on the sub fund assets, such increases not to exceed the Consumer Price Index for the previous year.

In June questions were raised in the Investment Committee about the sub fund concerning

- a) the wisdom of creating the sub fund in light of the "costs" resulting to the University, and
 - b) who might be designated as trustees of the sub fund, since some trustees of the University Pension Scheme (members of the Investment Committee) were unwilling to assume the responsibility for management of the sub fund.
- a) On the first issue, costs, little reference was made at the meeting of the Board. "Cost" is here used to identify earnings from the sub fund not available to be considered as earnings of the regular pension scheme, thus necessitating a greater contribution from the university above a matching formula for staff contributions than would otherwise be required to maintain viability of the scheme. This definition of cost ignores the possible offsetting payments, ex gratia or otherwise, that might be made to pensioners from time to time if there were no other provision for pension increases. On this understanding of "costs", depending on performance of the sub fund, the university may be required

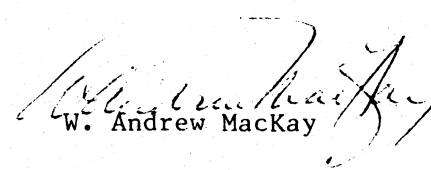
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to contribute to the regular pension scheme an amount perhaps up to \$500,000 (about 1% of current pensionable payroll) per annum that might otherwise not be required if the total earnings on the sub fund assets were taken into account in calculating performance of the regular pension scheme.

It should be noted that this is not necessarily a net additional cost, since at some time it would probably be important for the Board to arrange automatic or periodic ex gratia increases in pensions paid to retired staff.

Members of the Board should be aware of this potential "cost". Despite this result from creation of the sub fund and the arrangements for its "indexing", it is recommended that the arrangements, now approved, should not be revised or rescinded.

- b) Assuming arrangements for the sub fund remain as already approved, since some trustees of the Staff Pension Scheme are unwilling to act as trustees for the sub fund, it is recommended
- 1) that the Board designate the following to be trustees of the sub fund: the representatives of the Senate and of the Dalhousie Faculty Association who are named to be trustees of the Dalhousie Staff Pension Scheme, the President (who is also a trustee of the Staff Pension Scheme) and the Vice-President Finance and Administration,
 - 2) that any amendments to the rules of the Dalhousie University Staff Pension Scheme, deemed necessary after consultation with the University's actuary and solicitors be prepared for approval at a future meeting of the Board after review by the Pension Advisory Committee, and
 - 3) that the officers of the Board be authorized to execute any necessary deed of trust or other legal documents required to constitute the trust arrangements for the sub fund for direct payment of pensions to retired staff.


W. Andrew MacKay