

Item: Board of Governors Minutes, November 2002
Call Number: UA-1 53.4

Additional Notes:

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**Board of Governors Meeting
Dalhousie University
November 19, 2002**

Participating were:

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|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mr. James Cowan Chair | Ms. Cathy MacNutt |
| Mr. Wesley Campbell | Mr. Don Mills |
| Mr. Gerald Clarke | Mr. Robert Radchuck |
| Hon. Lorne Clarke | Ms. Suzanne Rosson |
| Mr. Murray Coolican | Dr. Michael Shepherd |
| Dr. Mohamed El-Hawary | Dr. Alasdair Sinclair |
| Mr. Charles Freeman | Dr. Jim Spatz |
| Ms. Johanne Galarneau | Mr. Bruce Towler |
| Dr. Daurene Lewis | Dr. Tom Traves President |
| | Mr. Jeff Woodbury |

Regrets from: Ms. Elizabeth Beale, Ms. Kristen Brown, Ms. Lynn Irving, Dr. Lucy Ellen Canary, Mr. Colin Latham, Dr. Daurene Lewis, Ms. Ann Petley-Jones, Dr. David Precious, Mr. John Risley, Mr. Peter Stuart, and Ms. Nancy Tower.

Also participating were: Dr. Carl Breckenridge (Vice-President Research), Dr. Dale Godsoe (Vice-President External), Mr. Eric McKee (Vice-President Student Services), Dr. Sam Scully (Vice-President Academic and Provost); Mr. Mike Roughneen (Assistant Vice-President, Personnel Services); Ms. Karen Crombie (Acting University Secretary and Legal Counsel); Mr. Brian Christie (Executive Director, Institutional Affairs); Ms. Ann Janega (Director, Public Relations); Ms. Catherine Young (Manager, internal Communications, Public Relations); and Ms. Sharlene Drake (Secretary).

- 1. Approval of Proposed Agenda**
The agenda was approved as presented.
- 2. Approval of minutes for the June, 2002 Board meeting**
The minutes were approved as distributed.

3. Report of the Chair

Mr. Cowan reported that a program which provides Dalhousie students the opportunity to travel, live and study in Cuba recently won a national award for its role in providing an international perspective to teaching and research at Dalhousie University. A 2002 Scotiabank-AUCC Award for Excellence in Internationalization was presented to faculty and staff members from both Dalhousie and the University of Havana for their joint efforts in presenting this collaborative program.

Mr. Cowan also congratulated Jim Spatz for winning the Excellence on the Waterfront Award, an international award acknowledging developments which integrate residential, commercial, and recreation space in the Bishop's Landing complex. The former fish plant site was lauded for its attention to historic detail.

4. Report of the President

Dr. Traves report is attached to these minutes.

5. Report from the Dalhousie Student Union

Johanne Galarneau reported that:

- the Student Council has isolated five immediate goals -- lobbying for an effective enrolment strategy; accountability within the university; making post-secondary education a priority in an upcoming provincial election; the need for 24-hour study space, and safety concerns about crossing the street near the McCain building.
- recent and upcoming meetings have been scheduled with provincial government officials concerning tuition concerns and difficulties in the Nova Scotia student loan program.
- Student Union building renovations are proceeding well and the new Grawood recently reopened in the SUB. .

6. Reports of the Standing Committees

Investment Committee

On behalf of Mr. Stewart, Mr. Mason reported that the auditors of the Pension Trust Fund and the Retirees Trust Fund attended the recent meeting of this Committee to present the financial statements for both funds for the year ending June 30; both statements were unqualified. The statements were approved by the Committee.

The Committee also reviewed the investment performance of the endowment and pension funds and noted that Dalhousie's funds declined between 6.2% and 7.1% in the quarter. The Committee concluded that the funds' asset mixes and diversification strategies remain sound.

- **Staff Relations Committee**

The report was accepted as circulated.

7. Branding exercise

Dr. Traves reported that the University is preparing to engage a firm to assist the University community in a branding exercise with a goal to build consensus around Dalhousie's messages and brand identity. One of the desired results will be to create an integrated marketing presence for the University locally, nationally, and internationally.

8. Report on funding status of the University's Pension Plan

Mr. Mason reported that based on the most recent financial statements for the Retirees Trust Fund and the Pension Trust Fund, the net deficit for both funds totalled \$64.5 million, a result of severe market declines in the last two years. The University is legally obligated to cover this shortfall and intends to do so with a multi-year plan that will cause difficulties with an already-tight operating budget.

9. Research funding

Dr. Breckenridge noted that Dalhousie is currently ranked sixteenth among the top fifty research universities in the country. The present level of funding at Dalhousie is \$71 million and may soon exceed \$80 million. Funding from the Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Trust grant has helped to remedy a continuing research funding shortfall.

The meeting then moved to an *In Camera* session where Professor Conrod presented BAC XXV, Dr. Sam Scully reported on faculty recruitment and enrolment management, and the firm of Shore Tilbe Irwin & Partners in joint venture with John K. Dobbs & Associates Inc. will be hired to provide architectural consulting services to the University for the Faculty of Management Building.

Don Mills
Honorary Secretary

James Cowan
Chair

Board of Governors Meeting – November 19, 2002

President's Report

- The provincial and federal budgets for next year are now under active consideration.
 - A very active lobbying effort is underway by CONSUP to urge greater funding by the provincial government. As you know, Nova Scotia ranks last in per student funding in Canada and 9th in per capita spending on PSE.
 - On November 6, I met with Premier Hamm and PC caucus.
 - On November 15, I met with Nova Scotia student leaders in a forum organized by the leader of the provincial Liberal Party.
 - On November 20, I will be meeting with a group of provincial deputy ministers to discuss our situation.
 - On November 26, we will be meeting with the NDP caucus.

 - At the federal level we have been active in pushing our agenda through the AUCC and the AAU
 - The Prime Minister and Minister of Industry are sponsoring a National Innovation Summit today. I was invited to participate but couldn't because of the timing of our Board Meeting, but Colin Latham is attending the meeting and will doubtless make a strong representation of views for Atlantic Canada.
 - On October 24, our AAU executive, of which I am a member, met with the Liberal Party's Atlantic Caucus to discuss the need for increased federal investments.
 - We agreed to strike a joint committee to pursue these concerns and we will meet on December 13 to review a paper the AAU has developed.
 - For your information, I have distributed a summary of the AUCC's key messages to the National Innovation Summit – I have also distributed an op-ed piece that I have written about the need for provincial government funding.

- In addition to this being the budget preparation season, it is also the university ranking season – this year, there were two national reports, the usual *Macleans*'s output and a new entry to the ratings game by the *Globe and Mail*.
 - Dal ranked 14th out of 29 universities in the *Globe* survey which was based on self-selected on-line respondents to a partner company for the *Globe*'s survey. I am advised that the statistical outcome of such surveys are of doubtful value. Moreover, the methodology employed to rank institutions was weird. Allow me to pick two categories to illustrate this point: Course Variety and Availability and Quality of Education.

 - All of that said, the *Globe* invited students to comment on many issues and we are analyzing the results that have been posted on their web site for useful insights into our operations and ways to improve them. At the next meeting of the Board, Eric McKee will present a summary of a more elaborate survey of student opinion that we have conducted recently.

- In the *Macleans*' survey, which has a more robust methodology – albeit one which unfortunately lumps unrelated factors into a single all-encompassing ranking – Dal slipped from 9th to 11th in the Medical/Doctoral group of universities. Needless to say, I am disappointed by this outcome, although if we read these results in relation to our ongoing discussion of university finances, it is hardly a surprise. Many of the *Macleans*' measures compare financial inputs and in this respect, we compare poorly – happily, however, the *Macleans*' data also records our strengths, namely the quality of our student body, their achievements, the outcome of their education as measured by graduation rates and student awards and the data records clearly that Dal continues to rank as Nova Scotia's leading university.
 - I have distributed analysis of *Macleans*' data that measures Dal in relation both to the national system and our Nova Scotia universities.
- On an entirely positive note, I am pleased to report that we are nearing the end of our campaign to raise \$25 million for our new Management building. To date we have raised \$23 million and I hope to secure the remainder over the next couple of months if all goes well. We have also selected a team of architects and engineers to design the building and we will consider a recommendation to approve the contract with that group later in our agenda.
 - Other great news that I would like to highlight includes the gift of \$61 million worth of software and computer equipment to our engineering students by a consortium of General Motors, Sun Microsystems and EDS, a consortium known as the Partners for the Advancement of CAD/CAM/CAE Education.
 - The CFI also announced an allocation of \$8 million to Dal to support new opportunities grants for junior faculty members – since this program requires matching grants from the province and the private sector, ultimately between 2003 and 2010 this will generate \$20 million in new research funding.

In my view, all of these events bode well for the continued high quality of education, a theme which we will consider in greater detail when we discuss the strategic implications of the major items of today's agenda.