

Item: Board of Governors Minutes, May 1987
Call Number: Board of Governors Fonds UA-1, 14.1

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Minutes of the Meeting of
the Board of Governors held on
Friday, May 8, 1987 at 4:00 p.m.
in the Board and Senate Room

Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia

PRESENT: Mr. W. Struan Robertson
Chairperson
Dr. Howard C. Clark
President
Mr. Barrie Black
Mr. Wesley Campbell
Mr. James Cowan
Dr. Donna M. Curry
Mr. Michael Dunn
Mr. Ivan Duvar
Mrs. Betty Flinn
Miss Sherry Golding
Mrs. Jean Harrington
Mr. Donald A. Kerr
Ms. Mary Lamb
Mrs. Anne Marie Macdonald
Ms. Bernadette Macdonald
Dr. Albro MacKeen
Mrs. Shirlee Medjuck
Judge Ian Palmeter
Mr. George C. Piercey
Dr. Henry Roper
Mr. Allan C. Shaw
Mr. Donald Sobey
Hon. Robert L. Stanfield
Miss Maxine Tynes
Miss Caroline Zayid

Also present were Mr. Bryan G. Mason (Vice-President, Finance & Administration); Dr. A. M. Sinclair (Vice-President, Academic & Research); Mr. John W. Graham (Assistant Vice-President, University Services); Dr. John A. McNulty and Dr. William E. Jones (Observers for Senate); Professor David Lewis (Observer for Faculty Association); Mr. Brian Crocker (Legal Advisor to the President); Mr. Mike Roughneen (Director of Personnel/Payroll Services); and Mrs. Elizabeth A. Christian (Secretary).

Dr. Robert O. Fournier, Assistant Vice-President Research, and Dr. Warwick O. Kimmins, Chairperson of the Department of Biology, were also present by invitation.

Regrets were received from Messrs. George Cooper, Peter Doig, John Lindsay, Edward MacNeill, Neil McKelvey, Cedric Ritchie, Dr. Peter Schwenger, Mrs. Peggy Weld and Mr. Sherman Zwicker.

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed Miss Sherry Golding to her first meeting as a representative of the Dalhousie Student Union. A welcome was also extended to out-of-town Governors present at the meeting.

Minutes

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on April 21, 1987, which had been previously circulated, were approved.

Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was approved as circulated.

Board
Matters

(a) Board Membership

The President reported that the Executive Committee, at its meeting held on April 21, had considered and approved two names for appointment as well as the reappointment of eleven members by Governor in Council. The Board ratified this action by the Executive Committee.

(b) D.F.A. Representative

Professor David M. Lewis, newly elected President of the Dalhousie Faculty Association, was welcomed as the Association's representative to meetings of the Board.

Committee
Reports

(a) Finance and Budget Committee

Mr. Piercey indicated that although a deficit of somewhat less than \$400,000 was now projected for the 1986-87 budget, the Committee was optimistic it would be less than this when the final results are presented to the Board in June. The 1987-88 budget is of on-going concern in view of earlier funding announced by government. However, the situation has improved somewhat and a further report will be made at the June meeting.

(b) Buildings and Grounds

As Mr. Cowan's arrival was delayed, Mr. Wesley Campbell commented on the the Committee's annual report which had been previously circulated. He noted that the Chemistry Extension was well under way with completion expected in the fall of 1987; that the new women's residence would be ready for the fall term; that renovations were being made to the fourth floor of the Law School, and that excavation behind the School was expected to commence this summer with construction proceeding in the fall.

Mr. Campbell reported the Committee had reviewed a proposed list of projects which various faculties and departments in the university had requested be carried out under the 1987-88 Alterations and Renovations grant. These requests totalled approximately \$3 million. On the basis of priorities assigned by submitting units and on an assessment of overall need by Physical Plant staff and the Senate Physical Planning Committee, it was recommended

That the Board of Governors approve a request to MPHEC for approval to proceed with 42 Alterations and Renovations projects in 1987/88 with an estimated cost of \$813,000.

The Committee anticipate MPHEC will consider this request at its June meeting and approve the grant so that work might proceed this summer. In answer to a question by the Chairman, assurance was given that these monies, if approved, would be used for current needs relating to safety and security items.

(c) Staff Relations Committee

Mr. Allan Shaw reviewed the Committee's annual report which had been previously circulated. With regard to collective bargaining with the various employee bargaining units, he advised that a meeting would be held with CUPE in mid May, and that it had been agreed in recent meetings with the D.F.A. to dispense with written ground rules through negotiations and to table all items by late May.

Mr. Shaw advised members that a tentative agreement had been reached with the Dalhousie Staff Association but the agreement had not yet been reviewed in detail by the Board. The DSA will hold a ratification vote on May 25 and the Board's Staff Relations and Finance and Budget Committees will meet on the same day to discuss the contract and make their recommendation. To facilitate matters Board members approved the following motion:

That the Officers of the Board be authorized to ratify the tentative DSA Collective Agreement for 1986/88 following detailed consideration and review and an affirmative recommendation by the Staff Relations and Finance and Budget Committees.

Annual
Reports

Annual reports of the following standing committees had been circulated with the agenda and were reviewed in a general way by Chairpersons (or their delegates) present at the meeting:

- (a) Alumni and Community Relations Committee
- (b) Audit Committee
- (c) Buildings and Grounds Committee
- (d) Finance and Budget Committee
- (e) Investment Committee
- (f) Nominating Committee
- (g) Pension Advisory Committee
- (h) Committee on Relations with Other Institutions
- (i) Retirees' Trust
- (j) Staff Relations Committee

Mrs. Betty Flinn noted that the success of the Alumni and Community Relations Committee in accomplishing many of the tasks it undertook during the past year was due in large part to the leadership and efforts of its chairperson Mrs. Weld.

Mrs. Medjuck reported there were three vacancies on the Board at the present time and that the Nominating Committee would meet in early May to complete appointments to the Board and its committees, and to draw up a slate of officers for the coming year.

In the absence of Mr. Zwicker, Chairperson of the Relations with Other Institutions Committee, Dr. Clark drew attention to the growing cooperation among local universities. He cited NovaNet, the supercomputer, the submission to MPHEC of a joint proposal by Dal, MSV and SMU for a programme in Women's Studies, and discussions in the area of gerontology as prime examples of this cooperation.

Campaign
for
Dalhousie

The annual report on the Development Committee was distributed to members present at the meeting and a copy is enclosed for information. Mr. Donald Sobey, Chairperson of the National Campaign Committee and the Development Committee, reported that Campaign gifts and pledges received to date now totalled \$30.2 million and that it was expected the Campaign would be successful in reaching its \$35 million goal within two years of its commencement in 1985. Referring to a progress report on the private sector (copy attached to minutes as Appendix A), Mr. Sobey reported that 79% of its \$25 million goal had now been committed, that the Campus Community and Charitable Foundations had exceeded their targets and that the canvass of alumni is now actively under way.

Mr. Stanfield commented on Mr. Sobey's contribution to the Campaign, noting this was the first time a thorough campaign had been organized by the university. He indicated that future support by foundations for Maritime universities would more likely be directed to particular programmes and areas of interest to them rather than to general purposes, and that universities would have to rely more on the support of alumni and non government sources for support.

Regulations
Concerning
Appointments,
Tenure and
Promotion
1987

Copies of these regulations, approved by Senate on 23 February 1987, had been circulated with the agenda. Vice-President Sinclair informed members that modifications to the 1974 (as amended 1976) regulations (copies of which had been distributed to those present for comparison purposes) had been under consideration by Senate for the past five years in order to bring the old regulations into conformity with the collective agreement. He reviewed the proposed revisions and noted that the two most substantial additions to the new regulations pertained to criteria for promotions and the eligibility for tenure of staff holding part-time appointments of 50% full-time or more.

Approval was given to the revised Regulations Concerning Appointments, Tenure and Promotion 1987.

Board
Handbook

In response to a request for information helpful to new Board members, a draft handbook had been prepared by the former secretary and circulated with the agenda. Dr. Clark noted that the material contained in this draft would be updated when the composition of the Board and its committees has been determined for 1987-88. Members were asked to advise the secretary of any further changes before a more permanent document is produced. An orientation session for new and other interested members of the Board will be held in early fall.

President's
Report

A written report from the President was circulated at the meeting and is attached to the minutes as Appendix B. Referring to his report, the President added that the low level of funding received by the university had resulted from MPHEC's allocation formula and that representations to have the present formula changed would be made to government. Discussions are continuing with government to increase the level of funding for the Medical School. With regard to reductions in the sizes of the various programmes in the Faculty of Medicine the President pointed out that this would ensure quality in these programmes and would have little effect on cost. He then commented briefly on the remaining items in his report.

Report on
Staff Changes

A list of staff changes was distributed to those present at the meeting. Mr. Shaw, chairperson of the Staff Relations Committee, commented on certain items of interest. Approval was given to the list of changes.

Research at
Dalhousie

Dr. Fournier opened his presentation by reporting that Dalhousie received \$4.5 million in external research support in 1973-74, compared to \$24 million in 1986-87. This amounts to a 530% increase over 13 years or approximately 40% per year. Although these funds are not a true measure of research activity, they do give some indication of changes which have occurred at Dalhousie during that time.

Dr. Fournier continued by stating that research fulfills four important functions within a university: satisfaction of intellectual curiosity, discovery of practical and useful facts that improve the quality of life, education of students with the most up-to-date information, and training of our youngest and brightest minds to approach and solve society's problems. He said any university worthy of that name should embrace all four activities.

Dr. Fournier then pointed out that important changes are occurring withing universities as they increasingly interact with the private sector through collaborative projects, technology transfer and various special relationships. One such project is that currently under way between Dalhousie and National Sea Products in the area of Cod Worm infestation.

Dr. Warwick Kimmins, Chairperson of the Department of Biology, reported to the Board the details of a study currently under way that includes many individuals from several institutions working together to solve a problem that costs local industry between \$50-60 million each year. Dr. Kimmins indicated this group is hopeful that, with the assistance of a major drug company, chemical treatment of seals as intermediate hosts of these worms will very shortly come under intensive laboratory and field trials.

The presentations by Drs. Fournier and Kimmins were warmly received by the Board.

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Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.



Donna M. Curry
Honorary Secretary



W. Struan Robertson
Chairperson