

Item: Board of Governors Minutes, November 2011

Call Number: Board of Governors fonds, UA-1

Additional Notes:

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BOARD OF GOVERNORS

**Approved Minutes of the Meeting (Open Session)
held on Tuesday, November 29, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.
Coburg Board Room, Mona Campbell Building**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Spatz (Chair), John Baxter, Barrie Black, William (Bill) Black, Joyce Carter, Fred Fountain, Lloyd Fraser, Dustin Griffin, Lynn Irving, Max Ma, Aubrey Palmeter, Chris Saulnier, Chris Smith, Stan Spavold, Larry Stordy, Candace Thomas, Tom Traves, Jim Wilson, Susan Brousseau (University Secretary)

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Ken Burt (VP Finance and Administration), Floyd Dykeman (VP External), Jeff Lamb (Asst. VP Facilities Management), Bonnie Neuman (VP Student Services), Laura Yetman (Minute Taker)

REGRETS: Jay Abbass, Michelle Awad, Wahid Fares, George McLellan, Nancy MacCready-Williams, Gail Tomblin-Murphy, Martha Crago (VP Research), Carolyn Watters (VP Academic and Provost)

1. Approval of Agenda

Moved by C. Smith, seconded by J. Baxter:

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

The motion CARRIED.

2. Consent Agenda

Item 2.1 on the consent agenda was approved by consent.

2.1 Approval of Minutes of Meeting of October 18, 2011

Motion: **THAT the minutes of the meeting held on October 18, 2011 be approved as presented.**

Approved by Consent.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

4. Chair's Report

J. Spatz reminded members of the Board and Senate Holiday reception on December 5th.

5. President's Report

President Traves reported on a number of items, including continuing discussions with the province for a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on government funding for universities, the introduction by the province of reforms to the Pension Benefits Act, and the conclusion of discussions with the Department of Health on Faculty of Medicine funding which has resulted in an allocation of \$5 million for 2011-12. With respect to the last item, he noted that this funding is a good resolution for this year, but he is hopeful that once the MOU is settled discussions on a longer-term solution will be possible.

Dr. Traves also noted that Dalhousie employees formerly represented by NSUPE have recently voted to be represented by NSGEU through a new local (Local 99), which is separate from the existing Local 77 which represents clerical, secretarial and technical employees.

6. Dalhousie Student Union President's Report

C. Saulnier gave a verbal report on recent external advocacy work in which members of the DSU Executive have been active at both the national and provincial level. Issues of concern include the Canada student loan program, international visa policy and international student issues. He also reported on plans to revive the Halifax Student Alliance which served as a vehicle in the past for addressing issues of concern to students at the municipal level.

Mr. Saulnier also noted the draft proposed student consultation process on the meeting agenda and provided some context from the student perspective. He noted that this document in his view constitutes a first step by providing a "best practices" framework. He would hope that there will be longer-term discussions on the broader issues of student involvement with respect to decision-making and accountability on fee issues.

7. Items for Discussion

7.1 Facilities Renewal Preliminary Budget 2012-13

J. Spatz introduced the motion on behalf of W. Fares, Chair of the Operations Committee. K. Burt and J. Lamb noted that this item is brought forward annually at the November meeting and reviewed briefly the rationale for doing so.

Moved by J. Spatz, seconded by B. Black:

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Operations Committee, approve funding not to exceed \$1 million for preliminary design and procurement work prior to the commencement of the fiscal year 2012-13 and approval of the expenditure in fiscal year 2012-13 of the remaining funds for the included list of proposed Facilities Renewal projects greater than \$250k.

#	Project	Description	Cost
1.	Dunn Building Stonework and Windows – Phase 3	This is the third phase of ongoing rehabilitation of the building exterior made necessary by masonry deterioration and moisture damage. Replacement of windows is also an energy saving measure.	\$950K
2.	LSC Biology Renewal – Phase 3	This is a continuation of work begun on the 5 th and 6 th floors to rehabilitate original lab fit-ups and make layouts more efficient so new researchers can be accommodated.	\$800K

3.	Sexton Campus - Hot Water Conversion Phase 2	This is a continuation of the project that started in 2011-12 to convert most heating systems on Sexton Campus from steam to hot water.	\$750K
4.	Ralph M. Medjuck Building Exterior Conservation – Phase 1	Exterior rehabilitation to deal with age-related brick and masonry deterioration, window leaks and failures, and subsequent interior repairs. This is expected to be the first of three phases which have an estimated total cost of \$2M.	\$700K
5.	Student Union Building - Replacement of 4KV Transformers & Switchboards	This project will replace existing 44 year old equipment in the main building electrical service, some of which is defective and poses potential safety hazards, with new equipment sized to meet current and predicted loads	\$600K
6.	1308-12 Robie Street - Renovation - Phase 2	Complete a two level addition to the back section of this building to provide more office space and meeting space for ITS. This Project was approved for 2011 but was moved to 2012 due to lack of available swing space for building occupants during implementation.	\$400K
7.	LSC – Biology 1 st Year Labs Renovation	This was determined by the Classroom Planning Committee to be the next classroom to be renovated.	\$400K
8.	Shirreff Dining Hall – Stonework Repointing	Continued conservation work at Shirreff Hall involving the exterior of the dining hall. The roof in this area is also being replaced as per 2010 consultant report so that cost savings can be realized with shared staging.	\$400K
9.	Asbestos Removal Allocation	This is an estimated value of the work that arises from the Haz Mat testing project that is being executed in 2011-12	\$350K
10.	Howe Hall - Hot Water Gas Conversion	A continuation of the hot water gas conversions that have occurred across campus in the last two years	\$250K
11.	Arts Centre - Upgrade of the Passenger Elevator	This project will address the code and safety related deficiencies of the existing 32 year old elevator using equipment with low operating sound levels that will eliminate current noise interference with Art Centre performances. This is part of a multi-year program to address deficiencies in elevators across Campus, developed in conjunction with the Dept of Labour Elevator Inspector.	\$250K
TOTAL:			\$5,850K

The motion CARRIED.

7.2 Mixed Use Facility – Project Approval

K. Burt and J. Lamb summarized the history of the project to date and provided an overview of the recent challenges as outlined in the memorandum provided in the materials. As a result of these issues, changes have been made with respect to the building design and placement on the site, plans for parking, and the incorporation of the existing arena into the project plan.

Questions and discussion focused on the site problems and the resulting design changes, the earlier concerns regarding parking facilities and whether these have been addressed, the sources of funding for the overall budget amount proposed, and options for relocating arena activities if the facility is demolished and construction of a new facility does not proceed immediately. Concerns regarding the status of the hockey program at Dalhousie and alternative rink space were discussed at length, including short and long term challenges and benefits. There was discussion regarding the estimated four-year timeframe for relocation to another facility and the costs associated with renting space.

Some concern was also expressed that a relocation could negatively impact student participation and school spirit.

Board members noted that although the motion today deals only with approval of the Mixed-Use Facility project budget, approval of this project essentially commits the University to proceeding with the other projects outlined in the materials. T. Traves responded that Board members should vote on this matter with a clear understanding that this project is only one part of the larger plan; that said, the University has not yet developed design and cost proposals for the other related projects and these elements will come forward individually for review and approval. C. Saulnier noted that the process for moving forward on these various interconnected projects really started with the approval of the student Fitness and Recreation Facility Renewal fee in 2010, although the sequencing of projects has now changed somewhat.

With respect to the plan for the proposed Fitness and Wellness Development Program, there was a question with respect to the potential availability of Wickwire Field as a year-round facility. Mr. Burt noted that there is not currently a full inventory of projects that will be part of the program, but that this project is part of the list currently under discussion.

At the conclusion of the discussion, members indicated support for the Mixed- Use Facility project, but encouraged senior administration to explore options for replacing the residence beds in Eliza Ritchie Hall more quickly so that the commencement of the arena project might be accelerated.

Moved by J. Spatz, seconded by C. Saulnier:

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Operations Committee, approve the construction of the LeMarchant Mixed-Use Facility project as presented, for a budget not to exceed \$48 million.

The motion CARRIED.

8. Items for Information

8.1 Proposed Student Consultation Process

T. Traves provided a brief introduction to the development of the draft document, which arose out of the discussions at the Board last spring. He noted that this framework was prepared in consultation with C. Saulnier, DSU President and student Board member. The intent is to introduce a clearer process for student consultation when proposals on student fees are made, with the objective of providing additional information to the Operations Committee in reviewing the proposals and making recommendations to the Board.

Dr. Traves responded to questions and reported that this document is presented for discussion purposes, but will be brought back to the Board in an appropriate format for formal adoption.

8.2 Current Capital Projects – Construction Status Update

J. Lamb gave a presentation on the current status of various capital projects, including the Oceans Excellence Centre, the Wallace McCain Learning Commons, the Inter-Professional Health Education Building, the LeMarchant Mixed Use Facility, the Tri-Generation Utilities Plant project and the decommissioning of the SLOWPOKE Reactor.

8.3 Capital Projects Financial Plan

K. Burt provided a briefing on a proposed plan for capital funding of various projects that are currently approved or in the design phase. In response to questions and discussion on the financial risks to the University during this substantial period of building and expansion, K. Burt and T. Traves noted that none of the current projects is proceeding without a funding plan. With respect to queries about how the University measures the level of debt it should take on, Mr. Burt responded that the University's financial services unit is currently preparing an analysis for the Operations Committee meeting in December which will look at what other universities across the country are doing and how Dalhousie compares in terms of its debt to asset ratio.

8.4 Pension Plan Update

K. Burt provided an update on the pension plan issue, including information on the recently proposed reforms to the Pension Benefits Act and the town hall meetings that have been offered to provide a forum for employees to hear about and discuss pension plan issues. The University is waiting to see whether the regulations expected under the Pension Benefits Act will provide permanent solvency relief for universities.

8.5 Board Standing Committee Reports

J. Spatz referred Board members to the written reports for the following committees: Governance and Nominating, Human Resources, Operations and Student Experience. There were no questions on the reports.

9. *In Camera* Session

The Board moved to an *in camera* session.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.