



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

**Approved Minutes of the Meeting (Open Session)
held on Wednesday, November 29, 2017, 9:00 a.m.
University Hall, Macdonald Building**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lawrence (Larry) Stordy (Chair), Amina Abawajy, Ian Bezanson, Joyce Carter, Cassandra Dorrington, Kati George-Jim, Kevin Hewitt, Brenda Hogan, Laurie Jennings, Brian Johnston, Anne McLellan, Audrey Palmeter, Sherry Porter, Jeremy Ryant, Paula Simon, Candace Thomas, Gail Tomblin Murphy, Michele Williams

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Alice Aiken (Vice-President Research), Peter Fardy (Vice-President Advancement), Ian Nason (Vice-President Finance and Administration), Carolyn Watters (Provost and Vice-President Academic), Susan Brousseau (University Secretary)

REGRETS: Eleanor Bernard, Richard Florizone, Elaine Gibson, Robert (Bob) Hanf, Iain Klugman, Robert Richardson

GUESTS: Catherine Bagnell Styles (AVP Communications & Marketing), Matt Hebb (AVP Government Relations & Economic Development), David Westwood (Acting DFA Observer)

L. Stordy (Chair) welcomed all Board members, guests and visitors to the meeting. He opened the meeting with an acknowledgement that the University sits on the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

1. Approval of Agenda

L. Stordy advised that Item 8.2 - Innovation Superclusters Initiative Update - has been moved to the beginning of the agenda to accommodate time constraints of the guest presenter. The agenda was adopted with this amendment.

8.2 Innovation Superclusters Initiative – Update

M. Hebb gave a presentation on the proposal for an ocean supercluster based in Atlantic Canada. The supercluster was announced in October as one of the finalists for funding from the federal government's Innovation Superclusters Initiative. He reported that the full application to the federal government was submitted on November 24th and it is expected that the successful initiatives will be announced shortly. Dalhousie is one of the research partners involved in the ocean supercluster proposal, as is the Dal-led Ocean Frontier Institute; if the initiative is successful, this would be the only supercluster in Atlantic Canada.

Following the presentation, M. Hebb responded to questions around the engagement of indigenous peoples and the alignment with Dalhousie's strategic priorities around diversity and inclusion. He

confirmed that diversity and inclusion are very important elements of this initiative, both for Dalhousie and for the federal government. He reported that, following the presentation today, he will be travelling to Millbrook, Nova Scotia to discuss the ocean supercluster with the Assembly of Mi'kmaq chiefs. It was also noted that the supercluster, if successful, would seem to offer significant opportunities for indigenous students at Dalhousie. Members noted that this initiative is an example of Dalhousie's leadership in the regional and global community and congratulated M. Hebb and the President on the significant work needed to move the application to this stage.

Divest Dal Presentation

Before returning to the agenda, L. Stordy invited Alex Ayton, Dalhousie student and representative of Divest DAL to make a brief statement. He noted that he extended the invitation to speak after meeting with the Divest Dal group during their recent campout on the Studley Quad. At the conclusion of her statement, A. Ayton asked the Board of Governors to revisit the decision made by the Board three years ago not to divest from fossil fuels. L. Stordy thanked A. Ayton for her remarks. He noted that there is no disagreement from the Board that climate change is a serious threat, but there are different views and perspectives on how best to address climate change.

2. Consent Agenda

There was a request to remove the minutes of October 17, 2017 from the Consent Agenda. The one remaining item (2.2.1) was approved by consent.

2.2.1 Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute

THAT the Board of Governors approve the establishment of the Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute as a Dalhousie research institute, effective immediately.

Approved by CONSENT.

Following approval of the Consent Agenda item, Item 2.1 was addressed. K. Hewitt noted that he had an amendment to propose to the second paragraph, fourth sentence under Item 8.1 – Diversity and Inclusiveness Strategy on page 4 of the draft minutes of October 17, 2017. S. Brousseau added that Dr. Hewitt had communicated with her regarding the proposed change and she did not have any objection to it, if members were satisfied. There were no objections to the proposed amendment. The fourth sentence of that paragraph will be amended to read:

One member noted the language adopted at other Canadian and U.S. institutions and supported by quantitatively dramatic outcomes outlined in the text being used to establish the 5.2 framework.

Moved by K. Hewitt, seconded by P. Simon:

THAT the minutes of the meeting of October 17, 2017 be approved as amended.

CARRIED.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business noted.

4. Chair's Report

L. Story thanked Board members and senior staff who attended the Blanket Exercise the previous day, as the first part of the Board's annual retreat. He noted that it was a very powerful learning experience and thanked Elder Geri Musqua-LeBlanc and Bill Strum for their leadership of this event.

5. President's Report

In the absence of the President, L. Stordy referred members to Dr. Florizone's written report and asked if there were any questions for the Vice-Presidents on matters covered in the report. Comments focused on a wide range of topics, including the recent success of Dalhousie's varsity athletic program and re-structuring in the athletics area, the Creative Destruction Lab (CDL) initiative, the importance of the Elders-In Residence program, the proposal for a National Centre of Excellence in Indigenous Health, and Senate's plan to review the Student Code of Conduct.

6. Dalhousie Student Union President Report

A. Abawajy noted that her report was circulated electronically to members prior to the morning. She spoke to the three recommendations in her report and suggested that these could perhaps be circulated to the appropriate Board committees for consideration. The recommendations relate to student participation on the Board and also propose a University Community Town Hall Forum that would be organized to provide engagement between the Board and students. A. Abawajy also noted the reports from the other student Board representatives attached to her report and K. George-Jim and J. Ryant spoke briefly to these. Members agreed that student engagement with the Board is important and valued by many Board members and that many members currently engage with students regularly through a variety of Dalhousie events and activities.

A. Abawajy highlighted a number of Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) activities and initiatives in her report, including the work around "Support the Report" and the "It Happens at Dal" campaign. She also noted the DSU's recommendations to Senate around the proposed Sexual Violence Policy, work to encourage students to participate in the University's "Be Counted" census, and the provision of 24-hour study space for students during the exam period.

7. Items for Decision

7.1 Banner 9 Transformation Program – Board 1 & 2 Approval

A. Palmetter introduced the motion and referred members to the background information in the meeting package.

Moved by A. Palmetter, seconded by J. Ryant:

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Capital Projects and Facilities Committee, approve a budget of not more than \$8 million for the Banner 9 transformation program.

CARRIED.

7.2 Facilities Renewal Preliminary Budget 2018-19

A. Palmetter introduced the motion and referred members to the background information in the meeting package.

Moved by A. Palmeter, seconded by L. Jennings:

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Capital Projects and Facilities Committee, approve expenditures not to exceed \$1 million Facilities Renewal (FR) on the 2018-18 Facilities Renewal budget for preliminary design and procurement work prior to the commencement of the fiscal year and approve the expenditure in fiscal year 2018-19 of the remaining funds for the attached lists of proposed Facilities Renewal projects greater than \$250k in estimated cost.

CARRIED.

7.3 Draft Gift Acceptance Policy

S. Porter introduced the motion and spoke briefly to the amendments proposed by the Community Affairs Committee since the Board last saw the draft policy in June.

Moved by S. Porter, seconded by K. George-Jim:

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Community Affairs Committee, approve the Gift Acceptance Policy as presented.

CARRIED.

7.4 Senate Constitution Amendments

C. Thomas introduced the item and presented the motion. K. Hewitt, Chair of Senate, spoke briefly to the process leading to the proposed amendments to the Senate Constitution, noting that these are intended to promote a more diverse and inclusive Senate body. He thanked many individuals who were instrumental in reaching this point today, including the University Secretariat staff (particularly Andrea Power), Arig al Shaibah (Vice-Provost, Student Affairs), student leaders and the members of the two working groups who considered this issue over the past two years.

The Board congratulated Dr. Hewitt on the significant work leading to the presentation of the motions today. A. Abawajy proposed, and K. Hewitt echoed, that it be noted in the minutes that this process of Senate membership review was initiated by students who brought forward their own motion two years ago to increase and diversify the student representation on Senate.

Moved by C. Thomas, seconded by A. Abawajy:

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Governance and Human Resources Committee, approve the proposed amendments to Section 3 (Senate Membership) of the Senate Constitution as follows:

1. Amend section 3.1 (a) by inserting “and appointed” so that it now reads:

3.1 (a) Total Senate Members: The membership of the Senate shall consist of elected and appointed members from the Faculties (with the exception of the Faculty of Graduate Studies) and the Libraries (hereafter collectively "Academic Units"), elected student representatives, representatives from affiliated institutions (as described below), and senior academic administrators as ex-officio members.

2. Amend Section 3.1 (b) of the Senate Constitution (Ratio of Academic Unit Senators to Administrators) to read:

3.1(b) Ratio of Academic Unit Senators to Other Members: The number of members from the Academic Units shall be at least three times the number of ex-officio academic administrators who sit as Senators. The number of members from the Academic Units shall constitute a two- third majority of all Senators.

3. Amend section 3.1(c) (Number of elected senators) by replacing “51” with “58”.

4. Amend section 3.1(d) by removing “Elected” and renumber as 3.1(f), to now read:

3.1(f) Limitation on Eligible Academic Unit Senators: The right to vote and to be a member of Senate is limited to those with an academic appointment of 50% full-time equivalent or more in an Academic Unit.

5. Add a new section 3.1(d) as follows:

3.1(d) Appointed Academic Unit Senators: There shall be one faculty member with an academic appointment of 50% full time equivalent or greater appointed as a Senator by each of the following groups as determined by such groups:

(i) Indigenous Advisory Council; and (ii) Black Faculty and Staff Caucus.

6. Add a new section 3.1(e) as follows:

3.1(e) Academic Unit Senators at Large: There shall be two Senators appointed by the Senate Planning and Governance Committee on criteria established by the Senate Planning and Governance Committee from time to time. The limitation set out in section 3.1(f) does not apply to these appointments.

7. Add three ex-officio positions to the list outlined in section 3.4(a) (Ex-officio: The ex-officio members of Senate shall consist of:) as follows:

3.4(a)

(vi) Vice-Provost Student Affairs

(vii) Associate Vice-President Academic

(viii) University Advisor and Assistant Vice-President Equity and Inclusion

CARRIED.

8. Items for Information

8.1 Dalhousie’s 200th Anniversary – Update

C. Bagnell-Styles provided an update to Board members on the progress on planning for Dalhousie’s 200th Anniversary which will kick off in a few short weeks. The presentation highlighted several of the signature events scheduled, including the Bicentennial Launch to kick off the year Feb. 6 and the Great Debate in April, as well as the identities of the first three speakers in the “Year of Belonging” series: Craig Stephen Wilder (March 1), Murray Sinclair (March 9) and Buffy Sainte-Marie (April 17).

C. Bagnell Styles noted that the suite of activities also includes Faculty-hosted events and community collaborations and is aligned with Dalhousie’s strategic plan. As reported on earlier occasions, it has been shaped by extensive consultation across the campus with diverse groups, including students, faculty, staff, alumni, retirees, donors and friends.

Members thanked Ms. Bagnell-Styles and her team for the hard work that has gone into the planning of the Dalhousie 200th Anniversary celebrations and expressed excitement and enthusiasm for the many excellent events planned for the upcoming year.

8.3 Board Standing Committee Reports

L. Stordy noted that the reports of the standing committee were circulated to Board members. There were no questions on the report. C. Thomas, Chair of the Governance & Human Resources Committee, circulated a brief document responding to the recommendations included in the DSU President's report at the last meeting.

9. *In Camera* Session

The Board moved to an *in camera* session.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.