



## **Board of Regents**

### **MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND**

#### **BOARD OF REGENTS**

The regular meeting of the Board of Regents was held on Thursday, 9 December 1999 in the Board Room of the University at 2:00 p.m.

#### **PRESENT:**

Mr. Edward Roberts, Chair  
Mr. Aubrey Bonnell, Vice-Chair  
Mr. John Crosbie, Chancellor  
Dr. Axel Meisen, President and Vice-Chancellor  
Dr. Evan Simpson, Vice-President (Academic) and Pro Vice-Chancellor  
Mr. Alick Andrews  
Ms. Gail Aylward  
Mr. Hayward Blake  
Mr. Robert Brown  
Ms. Lisa Browne  
Mr. Calvin Butt  
Mr. Chris Decker  
Ms. Sharon Duggan  
Mr. Fred Durant  
Mr. Peter Fenwick  
Dr. Georgina Hedges  
Mr. Ed Kelly  
Ms. Frankie O'Neill  
Mr. Brendan Paddick  
Mr. Larry Peckford  
Mr. Harvey Short  
Ms. Susan Wood  
Ms. Eleanor Bennett, Secretary

**APOLOGIES:** Ms. Nancy Kelly, Dr. Brendan Lewis, Ms. Joan Pinsent, Mr. David Power, and Ms. Lorelei Stanley.

**PRESENT BY INVITATION:** Mr. Wayne Thistle, Vice-President (Administration and Finance) and Legal Counsel.

## **1. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Regents held on 21 October 1999, copies of which were circulated, were accepted by the Board as amended.

## **2. CHAIR'S BUSINESS**

### **1. CONDOLENCES**

The Chair expressed condolences to Mr. Short on the recent death of his mother.

### **2. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

In a note to the Board dated 7 December 1999, the Chair advised of new committee assignments as follows:

Appointments - Ms. Aylward to be Chair, Dr. Hedges to be Vice-Chair, and Mr. Kelly to join the committee.

Campus Planning and Development - Ms. Wood and Mr. Peckford to join the Committee, Ms. Pinsent to leave the committee, and Ms. Wood to be Vice-Chair.

Finance - Mr. Bonnell to be Vice-Chair, Mr. Decker and Ms. Pinsent to join the committee.

Audit - Ms. Duggan to be Chair, Ms. Pinsent to join the committee.

Ad Hoc Committee on Financial Prospects - Mr. Decker and Dr. Hedges to join the committee.

Executive Committee - Ms. Aylward will become an ex-officio member of the committee.

## **3. STUDENT APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD**

The Chair informed the Board that there had been some question concerning the eligibility of Mr. Peter Barnes as the student representative to the Board but that this had been resolved. He advised that he had written the Minister of Education to recommend Mr. Barnes' appointment to the Board.

#### **4. EXHIBITION CENTRE AND RESIDENCE COMPLEX - GRENFELL COLLEGE**

The Chair and the President provided the background information pertaining to this item, details of which were outlined in a memorandum to the Chair of the Board from the President dated 25 November 1999, a copy of which was circulated prior to the meeting. Of particular note was that government will contribute \$7 million towards the construction of both facilities, which will be located on the campus of Sir Wilfred Grenfell College. The University will own both the centre and the residences but the operating expenses of the centre will be provided by Government.

After discussion, the following resolution was passed:

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the Board of Regents endorse the proposed actions with respect to the construction of an Exhibition Centre and a Residence Complex on the Sir Wilfred Grenfell College campus, as summarized in a memo from the President to the Chair of the Board dated November 25, 1999. Final approval by the Board of Regents will be forthcoming after they have considered detailed recommendations to be presented through the Campus Planning and Development Committee in respect of location, building design and content, capital funding, operating cost agreement with Government and other details with respect to academic opportunities and community activities that the facility would provide.

#### **3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

In a presentation to the Board, the President provided statistics on the trends and developments in Universities across Canada with respect to student enrolment and faculty recruitment and retention. He updated the Board on the development of the oil and gas initiative currently being prepared by the University. It is anticipated that the proposal will be completed by the end of the year. The President provided information on the Millennium Research Chairs proposed by the Federal Government and allocated by NSERC, MRC and SSHRC. He updated the Board on his recent visits within the province and across Canada.

#### **4. PLANNING AND PRIORITIES UPDATE**

Dr. Simpson reported that the external consultations of the Planning and Priorities committee have concluded. He advised the Board of the number of concerns expressed during the internal and public consultations. A summary of the input received will be compiled and a full report will be sent to all participants and to the Board for review. Subsequent to this, a number of feasibility studies regarding future initiatives may be conducted. He advised that it is anticipated that the mutual pieces of a strategic plan for the University will be available by early Spring next year.

#### **5. LABOUR RELATIONS ISSUES**

A meeting of the Labour Relations Committee was held on 9 December 1999 and because of time constraints was reconvened on 10 December 1999. The President updated the Board on negotiations with CUPE and MUNFA. He advised that the university and CUPE have agreed to proceed with Interest Based Bargaining as an approach to negotiations. He reported that negotiation of salary issues with MUNFA was expected to begin early in the New Year. The Board will be kept abreast of ongoing negotiation issues with CUPE and MUNFA through the Labour Relations Committee.

#### **6. MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD**

##### **1. FINANCE**

A draft of the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 9 December 1999, copies of which were circulated at the meeting, was presented by Mr. Fenwick, Chair of the Committee, and accepted by the Board. The following resolutions were passed:

##### **ITEM 1 - ESTABLISHMENT OF POSITION**

##### **RESOLVED:**

That the Board of Regents approves the establishment of the following permanent staff position in the Office of Alumni Affairs and Development:

Administrative Staff Specialist II - AAD-012

**ITEM 2 - ADMINISTRATIVE STIPENDS FOR DIVISION HEADS - SIR WILFRED GRENFELL COLLEGE**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Board of Regents approves an increase in the amount of the administrative stipends for Division Heads at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College from \$1,000 per annum to a level comparable with those of Department Heads at the St. John's campus, effective April 1, 1999.

**ITEM 3 - MUNSU FEES**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Board of Regents approves an increase in the Council of the Students' Union fees at the St. John's campus of \$1.00 for the Fall and Winter Semesters, effective January 1, 2000.

**2. APPOINTMENTS**

A Report of the Appointments Committee meeting held on 9 December 1999, copies of which were circulated, was presented by Ms. Aylward, Chair of the Committee, and accepted by the Board.

**3. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

A Report of the Employee Benefits Committee meeting held on 23 November 1999, copies of which were circulated at the meeting, was presented by Ms. O'Neill, Chair of the Committee, and accepted by the Board. There were no items requiring specific Board approval.

**4. PENSIONS**

Ms. Glenda Willis, Manager of Benefits and Pensions, and Dr. George Hickman, Director of Human Resources, joined the meeting.

A Report of the Pensions Committee meeting held on 30 November 1999, copies of which were circulated at the meeting, was presented by Mr. Durant, Chair of the Committee, and accepted by the Board. In a presentation to the Board, Mr. Durant provided background information

and statistical data on the MUN Pension Fund. He provided a review of the investment strategy and addressed the pension surplus issue. He advised the Board of the outstanding proposed amendments to the MUN Pension Plan.

After discussion, the following resolution was passed with respect to the valuation of the MUN Pension Fund:

### **VALUATION OF THE PENSION FUND**

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the Board of Regents approves an early valuation of the Memorial University Pension Fund as at December 31, 1999, rather than the normally scheduled date of March 31, 2000.

Ms. Willis and Dr. Hickman left the meeting.

### **7. GALBRAITH TRAVEL**

The Chair addressed the matter of expenses relating to the conferring of an honorary degree on Dr. John Kenneth Galbraith. He reported that special travel arrangements had been requested by Dr. Galbraith because of a disability which caused difficulty in travelling. He reported that Dr. Gallbraith had subsequently offered to make a gift to the University to defray part of the cost of his travel to St. John's incurred by Memorial. The Chair and the President accepted it with gratitude.

### **8. SENATE**

The Minutes of the Senate meeting held on 12 October 1999, copies of which were circulated, were presented by the President, and accepted by the Board.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.