



Board of Regents

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

BOARD OF REGENTS

A Special meeting of the Board of Regents was held on Monday, 18 December 2000 in the Board Room of the University at 2:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Edward Roberts, Chair
John Crosbie, Chancellor
Dr. Axel Meisen, President and Vice-Chancellor
Dr. Evan Simpson, Vice President (Academic) and Pro Vice-Chancellor
Alick Andrews (by teleconference)
Peter Barnes
Hayward Blake
Calvin Butt
Lisa Browne (by teleconference)
Samuel Chaulk (by teleconference)
Chris Decker
Sharon Duggan (by teleconference)
Fred Durant
Dorothy George (by teleconference)
Dr. Georgina Hedges (by teleconference)
Ed Kelly
Dr. Brendan Lewis (by teleconference)
Brendan Paddick
Larry Peckford
Darlene Russell
Harvey Short
Kathryn Small
Lorelei Stanley-Newton
Susan Wood (by teleconference)
Eleanor Bennett, Secretary

APOLOGIES: Gail Aylward, Nancy Kelly, and Joan Pinsent.

PRESENT BY INVITATION: Wayne Thistle, Vice-President (Administration and Finance) and Legal Counsel, and Dr. Jack Strawbridge, Director of Faculty Relations.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Regents held on 9 November 2000, copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting, were approved by the Board.

2. CHAIR'S REPORT

Dates for Future Board Meetings

Circulated at the meeting were copies of a note from the Chair explaining the rationale for the changes in the schedule of Board meetings for the remainder of the academic year. After discussion it was the consensus of the Board that meetings would be held on Thursday, 15 February, 2001 (in Corner Brook), Thursday, 5 April 2001 and Thursday, 24 May 2001 for the remainder of the academic year. (NOTE: Subsequent to the meeting the date of the February meeting was changed to Monday, 12 February 2001 (in Corner Brook) and the date of the May meeting was changed to Tuesday, 29 May 2001 (to coincide with Spring Convocation).

3. REPORT ON MUNFA STRIKE

The Board was provided with a report on the MUNFA strike. Dr. Meisen advised that a tentative agreement had been reached with MUNFA on 12 November 2000. He noted that MUNFA members had voted to accept the tentative agreement at a meeting held on 14 December 2000. The salary settlement that had been achieved was reviewed, the details of which are as follows:

1. Scale increases

September 1, 1999 - 2%

September 1, 2000 - 2%

September 1, 2001 - 2%

May 1, 2002 - 1%

2. Structural Adjustments

March 31, 2001:

- (a) For faculty members, 4 additional steps added to the top of the scale.
- (b) For Librarian I and Librarian II scales, 2 additional steps added to the top of the scale.

April 1, 2001:

- (a) For faculty members, 6 steps removed from the bottom of each scale.
- (b) For Librarians, 4 steps removed from the bottom of each scale.

3. Occupational Adjustment

Effective April 1, 2001:

- (a) 4 steps added to the salary of all faculty members holding an earned doctorate.
- (b) Additional steps added to the salary of all Librarians and Faculty not holding an earned doctorate as follows:

Librarians and Assistant Professors: 1 step

Associate Professors: 2 steps

Professors: 3 steps

4. Annual Step Increases (as in previous agreements)

Dr. Meisen reported that the University had succeeded in addressing the issues relating to faculty salary inequality with other comparable Canadian Universities while staying within the guidelines set out by the Board and the Government.

Dr. Strawbridge provided a chronology of events that occurred at the bargaining sessions from the time of the last meeting of the Board on 9 November 2000 up to the time a tentative agreement was reached on 12 November 2000.

4. SUMMARY OF SAVINGS AS A RESULT OF MUNFA STRIKE

The Board reviewed background material, copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting, pertaining to foregone expenditures as a result of the MUNFA strike which was based on 9 working days lost. After discussion the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board accepts the calculation of net savings resulting from the Memorial University of Newfoundland Faculty Association strike during the period 31 October 2000 to 10 November 2000.

5. AMENDMENT TO TUITION REFUND POLICY

The Board reviewed background material, copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting, pertaining to the issue of a tuition fee adjustment for students who dropped courses as a result of the MUNFA strike. The Board was advised that in order to accommodate students who could not cope with the compression of course material subsequent to the MUNFA strike, Senate approved a policy which enabled students to drop courses until the last day of classes (5 December 2000) without incurring academic penalties. This resulted in approximately 2,000 course drops compared with the normal 400 to 500 course drops. In an effort to encourage students to continue with their studies, it was recommended that they be granted tuition fee credits rather than rebates. After discussion the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approves an amendment to the Tuition Refund Policy in accordance with the Policy on Financial Remedies as a Result of the Disruption of Instructional Activities (31 October 2000 to 12 November 2000).

6. PROPOSED ALLOCATION OF MUNFA STRIKE SAVINGS

The Board received a summary of the figures, copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting, which outlined the proposed allocation of foregone expenses resulting from the MUNFA strike.

7. MUNFA COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT

The Board reviewed the summary of changes to the Articles in the MUNFA collective agreement, copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting, and Dr. Strawbridge provided clarification of the major issues.

Mr. Durant complimented the administration for the excellent treatment provided to students during the strike. Dr. Meisen acknowledged that there had apparently been little negative fallout for students as well as faculty and staff resulting from the strike.

The Chair, on behalf of the Board, congratulated the President, Dr. Strawbridge, and the negotiating team for their tremendous efforts during and after the strike and in particular for their efforts in reaching a settlement. The Board also offered congratulations to the Communications committee for their efficient and effective work in getting the University's message out to the students and the general university community.

After discussion the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents ratifies the Collective Agreement between Memorial University of Newfoundland and the Memorial University of Newfoundland Faculty Association covering the period from 1 September 1999 to 31 August 2002.

Dr. Strawbridge left the meeting at this point.

8. COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN MUN AND CUPE LOCAL 3336

The Board received and reviewed summary information pertaining to the collective agreement between the University and CUPE Local 3336, Canada Games Park 1995 Inc., representing employees of the Aquarena. The Board was advised that an agreement had been reached without strike action and within the guidelines set out by the Provincial Government. The three year collective agreement provides a 2% increase on 1 July 2000, 2001 and 2002 with the contract expiring on 30 June 2003. After discussion the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents ratifies the Collective Agreement between Memorial University of Newfoundland and CUPE Local 3336 representing Canada Games Park 1995 Inc. (Aquarena) employees.

9. APPOINTMENT OF UNIVERSITY AUDITORS

The Board received and reviewed the background information pertaining to the appointment of auditors for the University's Financial Statements and the Financial Statements for the MUN Pension Plan. This review was necessitated

by Ernst and Young LLP acquiring KPMG LLP, St. John's Office. After discussion the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approves the appointment of Ernst and Young LLP as Auditors for the Financial Statements of the University and the MUN Pension Plan for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2001, for a four-year period ending March 31, 2004, subject to annual reappointment and subject to the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, at the following fee structure:

Memorial University Pension Plan

March 2001	\$38,000	\$5,450
March 2002	\$39,000	\$5,600
March 2003	\$40,000	\$5,700
March 2004	\$41,000	\$5,850

10. FINANCIAL ESTIMATES FOR 2000-2001 FY

The Board received and reviewed a summary of revenue estimates for the 2000-01 fiscal year compared to preliminary revenue estimates for the 2000-01 fiscal year, and a summary of the budget by major budget envelopes for the 2000-01 fiscal year. After discussion the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

The Board of Regents accepts the Final Estimates for the fiscal year 2000-2001 as presented.

11. AWARD OF CONTRACT - BONNE BAY MARINE AND RESEARCH CENTRE

The Board reviewed the background information pertaining to the appointment of design consultants for the Bonne Bay Marine and Research Centre at Norris Point and was advised that the design work had been completed in November 2000. Subsequently, ACOA advised the University that funding in the amount of \$2,997,123 had been approved to complete the project, including construction, project management, remaining engineering fees, furnishings, etc. Tenders for the construction portion of the work closed on 12 December 2000 with the low bid being \$2,477,750, or \$100,000 below the pre-tender estimate

of \$2,580,000 for construction. After discussion the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approves the award of a contract to construct the Bonne Bay Marine and Research Centre to Colby Construction Ltd. for the amount of \$2,477,750. Funding to complete this project, including construction, project management, remaining engineering fees, furnishing, etc. will be provided by ACOA.

12. ART GALLERY PERMANENT COLLECTION FUND

The Board received and reviewed background information pertaining to the recovery of the unrestricted operating deficit from the Art Gallery of Newfoundland and Labrador Permanent Collection Fund. After discussion the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approves the recovery of the unrestricted accumulated operating deficit at 31 March 2000, in the amount of \$76,515, of the Art Gallery of Newfoundland and Labrador, from the balance in the Permanent Collection Trust Fund, and, further to retain any balance in the Permanent Collection Fund for operational purposes.

13. EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED ENDOWMENT FUND

The Board reviewed background information for the establishment of an Externally Restricted Endowment Fund for each Faculty, School or College, copies of which were received prior to the meeting. The Board was advised that Faculties and Schools are eager to enhance their contributions to the work of the University by securing external support for their activities and that the ability to place such donations in a trust fund will secure their value permanently. After discussion the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approves the establishment of an Externally Restricted Endowment Fund for each Faculty, School and College.

During the discussion of this item Mr. Crosbie raised the question of whether there was a clear policy of approaching and/or accepting funding from tobacco companies. It was the consensus of the Board that a clear policy of soliciting and/or accepting contributions from tobacco companies and beyond should be established. The President agreed to look at this issue with a view to presenting a report to the Board for discussion at a future meeting.

14. DELETION OF POSITIONS

The Board received background information pertaining to the deletion of positions and the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approves the deletion of the following permanent staff positions:

Ocean Sciences Centre:

OSC-004 - Intermediate Clerk Stenographer
OSC-025 - Aquarist

Department of Facilities Management:

MAI-177 - Plant Stores Clerk

15. TRANSFER OF POSITION

The Board received background information pertaining to the transfer of a position and the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approves the transfer of the permanent staff position CGS-084 Computer Operator I from the Faculty of Arts to the Department of Computing and Communications.

16. ESTABLISHMENT OF POSITION

The Board received background information pertaining to the establishment of a position and the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approves the establishment of the position of Associate Dean (Research) in the Faculty of Arts.

17. HARLOW CAMPUS TRUST MEMBERSHIP

The Board reviewed background information pertaining to the membership of the Harlow Campus Trust. After discussion the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents:

1. Accepts the retirement of Dr. David Wright as Chairman of the Harlow Campus Trust, and appoints him as Chairman Emeritus, effective the next meeting of the Trustees.
2. Appoints Dr. Alan Perry as Chairman of the Harlow Campus Trust, for a period of three years, effective the next meeting of the Trustees.
3. Renews the appointment of Alan Howard and Gerald Duffy for a second term of three years, effective the next meeting of the Trustees.

18. OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair tabled the following list of major issues for consideration at a future Board meeting:

- (a) Harlow
- (b) Separately Incorporated Entities
- (c) Ad Hoc Committee on Financial Prospects
- (d) Long Term Budgets
- (e) Pension
- (f) Sir Wilfred Grenfell Residences
- (g) Life Sciences Building
- (h) Deferred Maintenance
- (i) Thomson Student Centre
- (j) Atlantic Investment Partnership
- (k) Field House Management

The President reported that the Medical School had received full accreditation until the year 2005. The Secretary was asked to acknowledge this accomplishment.

The Chair advised of a request for the University to sell its interests in the Strawberry Hill Resort. The Board agreed that the university should maintain the original Board approval to retain its ownership.

The Chair advised that on Wednesday, 20 December 2000, an announcement would be made to name the University Centre the Smallwood Centre. This date was chosen as it is the closest date to what would have been the 100th birthday of Mr. Smallwood.

The Chair advised that Mr. Durant had taken up employment in Nunavut for the period from January to June 2001. In this regard he advised that Mr. Decker had agreed to serve as Acting Chair of the Pensions Committee in Mr. Durant's absence.

Dr. Meisen reported on the announcement on 14 December 2000 of a new educational partnership between the University and Ascension Collegiate in Bay Roberts. He thanked Mr. Blake and Mr. Butt for their assistance in making this announcement.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.