

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

BOARD OF REGENTS

The regular meeting of the Board of Regents was held on Thursday, February 9, 1995 in the Board Room of the University at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Ms. Janet Gardiner, Chair  
Ms. Jeannie French, Vice-Chair  
Mr. John Crosbie, Chancellor  
Dr. Arthur May, President and Vice-Chancellor  
Dr. Jaap Tuinman, Vice-President (Academic) and Pro Vice-Chancellor  
Mr. Gerry Bishop  
Mr. Aubrey Bonnell  
Ms. Laurie Combdon  
Ms. Mary Ennis  
Mr. Chris Facey  
Mr. Peter Fenwick  
Mr. Sean Hanrahan  
Mr. Ed Kennedy  
Ms. Barbara Lewis  
Dr. Robert MacLeod  
Mr. George Neal  
Ms. Frankie O'Neill  
Mr. David Power  
Ms. Grace Stapleton  
Ms. Heather Tulk  
Ms. Betty Williams  
Ms. Maureen Woodrow  
Ms. Eleanor Bennett, Secretary

APOLOGIES: Mr. David Andrews, Dr. Ches Blackwood, Ms. Gudrid Hutchings, Mr. Alexander Roche, Mr. Raymond Rose and Mr. Mel Woodward.

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 Thursday, January 19, 1995, copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting, were accepted by the Board.

## 2. MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

### 1. FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on Thursday, February 9, 1995, copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting, were presented by the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Gerry Bishop, and accepted by the Board. The following resolutions were passed with respect to the items which required specific Board approval:

#### ITEM A – TRANSFER OF CANADA GAMES PARK/AQUARENA TO THE UNIVERSITY

Copies of the Memorial University Canada Games Park Committee Progress Report were circulated prior to the meeting. Also circulated were copies of a letter to the University from the City of St. John's dated February 7, 1995, outlining the City's agreement to provide an operating subsidy of \$250,000 per year for the next three-year period and to provide capital funding to a maximum of \$200,000 for planned structural repairs to the end walls of the Aquarena.

The President voiced his concerns with the operating deficit of the Aquarena and highlighted several areas where the University could reduce its costs and increase its revenues in an effort to operate the facilities in a more efficient manner. He also stressed the major benefits that the acquisition of the facilities could have on the academic program of the School of Physical Education and Athletics. Other issues discussed were the continuation of public access to the facilities and the transfer of both full-time and part-time staff to the University. Final details of the agreement with respect to the management structure and the transfer of assets and employees are expected to be concluded by the end of March, subject to the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents grants approval to accept the transfer of the Canada Games Park/Aquarena to the University in accordance with the terms outlined in the letter to the University from the City of St. John's, dated February 7, 1995, subject to the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

ITEM B – REDEVELOPMENT OF STRAWBERRY HILL

Copies of a status report on the redevelopment of Strawberry Hill were circulated prior to the meeting. The President updated the Board on the events which had transpired since the last meeting. He reported that the ad hoc committee on Strawberry Hill had met with K.M. Mounce & Associates and N.D. Dobbin Group of Companies to receive their proposals for the redevelopment of the property. Copies of the evaluation of both proposals had been circulated at the meeting. In its report the ad hoc committee summarized the critical points of both proposals and recommended that authorization be given for negotiations with the N.D. Dobbin Group of Companies to develop an agreement and business plan for the redevelopment of Strawberry Hill. The President pointed out that the University's philosophy in redeveloping the property, which was contained in the evaluation report, was a very important one and quoted it to the Board.

"To support economic development in the Province of Newfoundland by using the unique talents of the University, in cooperation with business, to develop new tourism markets for the Province, with special emphasis on conferences, training and the support of local industry at levels of financial risk acceptable to the University and in a manner which ensures that the University is not perceived as being in direct competition with local businesses. Also, to provide direct opportunities for University and College student employment and training in areas related to their academic programs."

The Board's attention was drawn to a number of architectural designs of the redeveloped property which had been placed around

the Board Room. After much discussion and on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents endorses the selection of the Ad Hoc Committee on Strawberry Hill for the N.D. Dobbin Group of Companies proposal and authorizes that the committee proceed with further negotiations to develop an agreement and submit a business plan for the redevelopment of Strawberry Hill to the Board of Regents by a target date of the May Board meeting.

ITEM C – DELETION OF POSITIONS

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents grants approval to the deletion of the following positions:

Department of Human Resources:  
HRS-020 Human Resources Office Manager MPS 15  
HRS-024 Payroll Supervisor MS 43

Faculty of Education:  
EDC-009 Administrative Assistant to the Dean MPS 11  
EDC-036 Administrative Staff Specialist III MS 43

Queen Elizabeth II Library:  
LIB-065 Library Assistant III MS 9

School of General and Continuing Studies:  
CSE-008 Program Developer MS 43

ITEM D – PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MUN (PENSIONS)  
ACT

At the January Board meeting the following recommendation from the Pensions Committee was referred to the Finance Committee for consideration:

(a) That the proposals to 1) introduce portability of employer pension contributions, 2) increase survivor benefits, and 3) reduce the vesting period, be resubmitted to the Provincial Government with a commitment to increase the pension contribution rate to finance these improved benefits;

(b) That the proposal to provide stacking of pension benefits for future service be deferred at this time.

Acceptance of the above recommendation would mean a projected annual increase of \$295,490 in the University's pension contributions and an equivalent increase in pension contributions over the employee population.

The President advised that the senior administration had not had input from all employee groups through the Advisory Working Group on Employee Benefits and Pensions and the Finance Committee therefore deferred consideration of this matter.

## 2. APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Appointments Committee meeting held on Thursday, February 9, 1995, were presented by the Chair of the Committee, Ms. Grace Stapleton, and accepted by the Board.

## 3. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS COMMITTEE

A Summary of Business Transacted at the Employee Benefits Committee meeting held on Thursday, February 9, 1995, was presented by the Chair of the Committee, Ms. Grace Stapleton, and accepted by the Board. The Employee Benefits Committee requested the Chair to present the following position to the Board:

that the Committee's recommendation of December 1994 that the Dental insurance plan be renewed, with no change in plan design, at a 3.4% premium increase is reaffirmed;

that the Health insurance plan be renewed, with removal of over-the-counter drugs as an eligible expense (premium increase of 5.1%), and that any decision with respect to Managed Care be deferred until an appropriate information session is provided to the Committee.

The Board deferred this to its meeting of March 9, 1995.

#### 4. PENSIONS COMMITTEE

A Summary of Business Transacted at the Pensions Committee meeting held on Thursday, February 9, 1995, was presented by the Chair of the Committee, Ms. Frankie O'Neill, and accepted by the Board. On the recommendation of the Pensions Committee the following resolution was passed:

#### RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents grants approval to a recommendation that the Investment Policy for the Memorial University Pension Fund be accepted for implementation.

#### 3. BOARD COMMITTEES

There was considerable discussion concerning the existing arrangements with regard to the Pensions Committee and the Employee Benefits Committee. The Chair of both committees expressed some frustration with respect to the process currently in place, and it was suggested that an alternative might be to have benefits and pensions issues dealt with through the collective bargaining process with the various bargaining units. The unions have failed to send delegates to the Advisory Work Group on Employee Benefits and Pensions, which had been established to provide employee groups with a mechanism to give meaningful input into benefits and pensions matters. Mr. Thistle advised that a review is currently being conducted by the appropriate university officials and would provide the Board with a report on the pros and cons of having these matters placed in the collective bargaining arena.

#### 4. SENATE

The Minutes of the regular meeting of Senate held on Tuesday, January 10, 1995, were presented by the President and accepted by the Board. Specific approval was given to the following item:

ITEM 31 – REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
ITEM 31.1, 31.2, 31.5, 31.11, 31.14, 31.15 AND 31.16

## 5. OTHER BUSINESS

### 1. STATISTICAL REPORT

Circulated for information was a statistical report on the comparison of costs of fees, accommodations, books, family income, student aid, etc. among various universities in the four atlantic provinces. The President pointed out that tuition fees and accommodation costs at Memorial University still remain the lowest of all the universities in Atlantic Canada.

### 2. MUNFA ACTIVE GRIEVANCES

Circulated for information was an updated listing of active MUNFA grievances and arbitration cases for the period ending January 31, 1995.

### 3. SCHOLARSHIP REPORT FOR 1993-94

Circulated for information was a summary report of scholarship activities for 1993-94 prepared by the Dean of Student Affairs and Services.

### 4. AXWORTHY PROPOSAL

Circulated for information was a discussion paper prepared for Dr. Tuinman on the federal presence in post-secondary education finance: a Newfoundland Perspective on issues and alternatives, which was prepared by Dr. Paul Hobson, Department of Economics at Acadia University and Dr. Wade Locke, Department of Economics at Memorial.

### 5. ACADEMIC PLANNING – FIRST ISSUES

Dr. Tuinman provided the Board with a detailed presentation on the subject of Academic Planning – First Issues. In his presentation Dr. Tuinman addressed issues related to long range planning, elements of the strategic plan for the University, increased/decreased future enrolment, and the major issues facing Memorial into the 21st century.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.