



Board of Regents
MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND
BOARD OF REGENTS

The regular meeting of the Board of Regents was held on Thursday, January 14, 1999 at the Glynmill Inn, Corner Brook at 2:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Mr. Aubrey Bonnell, Vice-Chair
Mr. John Crosbie, Chancellor
Dr. Arthur May, President and Vice-Chancellor
Dr. Evan Simpson, Vice President (Academic) and Pro Vice-Chancellor
Mr. Alick Andrews
Ms. Gail Aylward
Mr. Cyril Bonia
Mr. Robert Brown
Mr. Fred Durant
Mr. Peter Fenwick
Dr. Georgina Hedges
Ms. Nancy Kelly
Dr. Brendan Lewis
Ms. Frankie O'Neill
Ms. Joan Pinsent
Mr. David Power
Mr. Alexander Roche
Mr. Harvey Short
Mr. Robert Stack
Ms. Lorelei Stanley
Ms. Eleanor Bennett, Secretary

APOLOGIES: Mr. Edward Roberts, Chair of the Board, Mr. William Dilny, Ms. Sharon Duggan, Ms. Jeannie French, Mr. Brendan Paddick, Mr. Stephen Power, and Mr. Mel Woodward.

ABSENCE OF THE CHAIR

In the absence of the Chair of the Board, Mr. Roberts, the Vice-Chair of the Board, Mr. Bonnell, acted as Chair.

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 November 12, 1998, copies of which were circulated, were accepted by the Board.

2. WELCOME

The Chair extended a warm welcome to Dr. Simpson who was attending his first Board meetings since being appointed Vice-President (Academic) and Pro Vice-Chancellor and to Mr. Brown who was also attending his first Board meeting since being appointed a member of the Board.

3. PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Ms. Aylward provided the Board with an update on the progress of this committee. She informed the Board that the committee had reached a short list of candidates and that interviews would be held in early February.

4. BUDGET

In a letter to the Minister of Education dated December 7, 1998, copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting, the President submitted an overview of the University and its budgetary history. He pointed out the manner in which the University is a resource to the Province, the changes and renewal that have occurred at the University over the past decade, what the outlook is for Memorial and how it has managed through very challenging financial times. He further provided the budget estimates of revenues and expenses for the next three fiscal years, which showed a projected deficit of \$7,350,000 for 1999-2000. He pointed out that these figures did not include any provision for salary increases as a consequence of collective bargaining or for inflation. The shortfall was based on the assumption that enrolment would remain the same and that tuition fees would not be increased.

At a press conference held on January 14, 1999, Government announced an increase in the University's operating grant of \$7 million for each of the

next two fiscal years to \$106 million. A commitment had been made to freeze tuition fees for the next two years. The President provided further information regarding the University's budget position.

After discussion on the budget issues, the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents supports the commitment made by the President and the Chair of the Board of Regents at the press conference on January 14, 1999 not to increase tuition fees for the next two years.

5. AD HOC COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL PROSPECTS

The President reported that meetings of this committee are ongoing. Given the news of the increase in the operating grant, there were still some strategic issues that will need discussion.

6. MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

1. FINANCE

A draft of the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on January 14, 1999, copies of which were circulated at the meeting, was presented by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Mr. Bonnell, and accepted by the Board. The following resolution was passed:

ITEM A - DELETION OF POSITIONS

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approves the deletion of the following positions in the Department of Facilities Management:

MAI-053 Power Engineer 4th Class
MAI-054 Power Engineer 4th Class
MAI-061 Power Engineer 4th Class
MAI-063 Power Engineer 4th Class
MAI-069 Power Engineer 4th Class

FINANCE COMMITTEE INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Item 2693 - Cash Flow Projections for Capital Construction
Item 2694 - Status of Banking and Audit Services
Item 2695 - Year 2000 Status Report

AQUARENA FUNDING

The President alerted the Board that the University may have to rethink the University's commitment to the Aquarena given the City's indication that it may not provide its \$200,000 operating subsidy in support of the Aquarena. The President agreed that the University will have to examine the long term prospects for this facility, and agreed to report further on this matter at the March meeting of the Board.

2. APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

A report of the Appointments Committee meeting held on January 14, 1999, copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting, and an addendum, which was circulated at the meeting, were presented by the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Roche, and accepted by the Board.

3. CAMPUS PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Campus Planning and Development Committee meeting held on January 11, 1999, copies of which were circulated at the meeting, were presented by the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Short, and accepted by the Board. The following resolutions were passed:

ITEM 1 - BIOLOGY FIELD STATION

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approves a recommendation for the development of a new Biology Field Station and Marine Centre at Norris Point. This approval is contingent upon capital funds for the project being provided through external Government sources and on the facility operating in the manner outlined in the business plan.

ITEM 2 - SOUTHSIDE PROJECT

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approves a recommendation for the acquisition of the Mobil Oil Canada property Pier 22 on the southside of St. John's harbour and the redevelopment of the property. This approval is contingent

upon funding from the Offshore Development Fund (ODF) in the necessary amount.

CAMPUS PLANNING INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- (1) Memorial Tower -Display and Storyboards
- (2) Master Plan Review - Sir Wilfred Grenfell College and St. John's
- (3) Listing of Capital Projects and associated cost estimates - Material on this item was circulated at the meeting.
- (4) Proposed Development of a new Residence Complex at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College - Material on this item was circulated at the meeting.

4. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS COMMITTEE

A report of the Employee Benefits Committee meeting held on December 11, 1998, copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting, was presented by the Chair of the Committee, Ms. O'Neill, and accepted by the Board. There were no items requiring specific approval of the Board.

5. PENSIONS COMMITTEE

A report of the Pensions Committee meeting held on November 24, 1998, copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting, was presented by the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Durant, and accepted by the Board. There were no items requiring specific approval of the Board.

7. SENATE

The Minutes of the regular meetings of Senate held on November 10, 1998 and December 8, 1998, copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting, were presented by the President, and accepted by the Board.

8. AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS AND CONSTITUTION - SCHOOL OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

On the recommendation of Senate, the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approves the amendments to the By-Laws and Constitution of the School of Continuing Education.

9. SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

The President provided an update on this matter for the Board advising that mediation between the two parties had been undertaken by a Federal Court judge in an attempt to resolve the dispute before it came to trial. The mediation was not successful, and the trial is scheduled for St. John's in September, 1999.

10. STRATEGIC APPROACH TO FINANCIAL SHORTFALL

Circulated prior to the meeting were copies of a report prepared by the President entitled "A Strategic Approach to Financial Shortfalls" providing a detailed analysis of the budget position. The President summarized the report for the Board and advised that the report will be used for discussion purposes in the Board's Ad Hoc committee on Financial Prospects.

11. PLANNING AND PRIORITIES

Circulated prior to the meeting were copies of briefing notes on the current Planning and Priorities initiatives being undertaken at the University. Eight questions were proposed to various academic units for their consideration. Copies of responses to these questions were also circulated. Dr. Simpson explained that the planning and priorities process had arisen out of two General Assemblies held last year as a forum for the identification of concerns and the expression of opinions about the University's current situation and its financial prospects. The consultative exercise recognized a requirement for greater coordination and co-operation across the faculties along with the acknowledgement that current resources could be used more efficiently. Dr. Simpson advised that an executive summary had been prepared and for circulation to the academic community for further input. Another general assembly will be held in February. Following this process, it is anticipated that the University's goals and principles will be drafted and the academic priorities and financial prospects will be identified.

12. INFORMATION CAMPAIGN

The President informed the Board that the University has engaged M5 Advertising to launch an advertising campaign with the theme "We shape the minds that shape our province". It is anticipated that the multi-media campaign will draw a positive light to the University and emphasize its many different aspects. The campaign will promote the 50th anniversary of the University as a degree granting institution and will also be utilized for student recruitment purposes.

13. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- (a) Summary Report - Early Scholarship Offer Recipients 1998-99
- (b) Letter of Thanks - Dr. M. Hodder
- (c) Association of Governing Boards - Statement on Institutional Governance
- (d) Briefing Notes - Planning & Priorities '98
- (e) Booklet "Planning and Priorities '98 - Renewing Memorial University"

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.