



Board of Regents

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

BOARD OF REGENTS

The regular meeting of the Board of Regents was held on Thursday, 9 March 2000 in the Board Room of the University at 2:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Mr. Edward Roberts, Chair
Dr. Axel Meisen, President and Vice-Chancellor
Dr. Evan Simpson, Vice President (Academic) and Pro Vice-Chancellor
Mr. Alick Andrews
Mr. Peter Barnes
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. Nancy Kelly
Dr. Brendan Lewis
Ms. Frankie O'Neill
Mr. Brendan Paddick
Ms. Joan Pinsent
Mr. David Power
Mr. Harvey Short
Ms. Lorelei Stanley
Ms. Eleanor Bennett, Secretary

APOLOGIES: Mr. Aubrey Bonnell, Vice-Chair, Mr. John Crosbie, Chancellor, Ms. Gail Aylward, Mr. Larry Peckford and Ms. Susan Wood.

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

1. WELCOME TO MR. BARNES

The Chair extended a warm welcome to Mr. Barnes who was attending his first Board meeting and wished him a successful term of office. His appointment became effective 14 February 2000 and will be for a two-year term.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Regents held on 14 January 2000, copies of which were circulated, were approved by the Board.

3. CHAIR'S BUSINESS

1. F.W. Russell Correspondence

The Chair referred to correspondence concerning the Memorial Tower Commemorative Plaque from Mr. F. W. Russell dated 12 January 2000 and the Chair's reply dated 18 February 2000, copies of which were circulated to members for their information. The Chair advised that Mr. Russell had written a further letter on this matter dated 7 March 2000 to which he would be replying.

2. NAUBCS 2000 Conference

The Chair advised that the National Association of University Board Chairs and Secretaries Conference (NAUBCS) conference hosted by Memorial will be held from 28 to 30 April 2000. Board members were invited to attend the social event scheduled for Saturday, 29 April.

3. Sub-Committee of Pensions and Employee Benefits Committee

The Chair informed the Board that the Chairs of both the Pensions and Employee Benefits Committees have agreed to the establishment of a joint subcommittee to be comprised of stakeholders in these two committees. The subcommittee will review the matter of restructuring these committees from the point of equity and proportional representation.

4. Accomplishments

The Chair informed the Board that the Women's Volleyball and Basketball Teams had recently won AUAA championships. He further reported that Ms. Trudy Pound-Curtis, Comptroller, and Ms. Judy Cumby, Business Administration, had been elected as a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Newfoundland. The Board offered its congratulations on these achievements and accomplishments.

5. Request for Extension of Tuition Freeze

The Chair circulated copies of a letter from the Minister of Education requesting the Board to consider an extension of the tuition freeze for a further year, through the 2001-02 academic year. It was acknowledged that such a decision would make it almost impossible to achieve a balanced budget in the 2001-02 academic year given the likelihood of unavoidable cost increases. It was agreed that there is need for further discussion with government concerning these budget difficulties at the appropriate time.

The Chair requested that this matter be kept confidential for the time being.

After discussion, the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents accepts the Government's request for an extension of the tuition freeze for a further year through the 2001-02 academic year.

6. Naming of the University Centre

Circulated prior to the meeting was a copy of a note from the Chair recommending the establishment of an ad hoc committee to develop suggested names for the new University Centre and to make subsequent recommendations to the Board. The Chair outlined the composition of the committee and requested Board members to advise him of their willingness to serve as a member of this committee.

The following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That an Ad Hoc Committee be appointed, to develop a list of suitable names for the University Centre, and to advise the Board thereon; the Committee to consist of nine members: and, specifically, two students nominated by the President of the Memorial University of Newfoundland Students' Union; one student by the President of the Graduate Students' Union; and one student by the President of the Marine Institute Students' Union; together with a member of the University's faculty to be nominated by the President in consultation with the Chair of the Board; and four Regents (with one of them being designated as the Chair) to be nominated by the Chair of the Board (after consideration of any names suggested by his colleagues); **AND THAT** the Committee be requested to seek suggestions as to possible names from all members of the University community and from the public at large; **AND THAT** the Committee be required to submit their report by 31 May 2000, so that the Board may consider it at the meeting to be held on Thursday, 8 June.

The Chair advised that the official opening of the University Centre was scheduled for 31 March 2000 at 10:30 a.m.

4. PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS

The President commented on the 28 February federal budget as it related to the University noting that it would provide major funding for new research chairs and other research opportunities, and provide for tax changes which would benefit students who are receiving scholarships.

The President advised that he had met with most of the Deputy Ministers of Government and gave a presentation on the value of a university education, student debt load and the contribution the University made to the economy.

The President advised that he had recently attended Alumni events in Boston, Ottawa and Carbonear.

The President advised that the enrolments for Fall 2000 are comparable to those of the same time last year and that application numbers are up especially for rural Newfoundland and for Labrador.

The President advised that the Program of Recruitment report for 2000-05 is in the final draft stages and would be ready to present to the Board for consideration at the May meeting.

Copies of the *Maclean's* magazine Guide to Canadian Universities 2000 were circulated. Memorial was profiled in the issue and the President advised that the overall ranking given to Memorial was unchanged. The associated commentary was quite favourable to Memorial.

Planning and Priorities Update

Circulated prior to the meeting were copies of an Update on the Planning and Priorities process which included summary statements of the external and internal consultation processes which were completed recently. Dr. Meisen and Dr. Simpson elaborated further on the report for the Board.

MUSE Article

The President referred to a recent article in the MUSE commenting on the issue of public safety in the wake of numerous false alarms which had occurred in the new University Centre. He advised that the false alarms had been triggered by a wiring malfunction and that a statement to this effect will be issued in the MUSE.

5. MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

(A) FINANCE COMMITTEE

A draft of the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 9 March 2000, 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 A - BUDGET ESTIMATES

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approves the final budget estimates for the 1999-2000 fiscal year with total revenues of \$147,898,000 and total expenditures of \$147,546,000. The excess revenue will be applied against unfunded internal commitments to departmental carryovers of \$472,000. This action would leave an estimated unfunded amount of \$120,000 at year end, which will be factored into the 2000-2001 budget.

ITEM B - CANADIAN NURSING STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION FEES

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approves a recommendation that the Canadian Nursing Students' Association Membership Fees be collected through tuition payment. The fees set for the 2000-2001 academic year are \$5.00 for each full-time nursing student and \$3.00 for each part-time nursing student.

ITEM C - TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approves the following travel reimbursement rates, effective 1 April 2000:

<u>Per Diems</u>	
Newfoundland	\$36.50
Canada	\$43.00
United States	\$41.00(US)
Private	
Accommodation	\$25.00
Mileage	31.5 cents/km

**ITEM D - FINANCING OF THE EXHIBITION CENTRE AND
RESIDENCE COMPLEX - SIR WILFRED GRENFELL
COLLEGE**

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents agrees to seek permission to borrow external funds for the construction of the Exhibition Centre and the 300-Bed Residence Complex at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, Corner Brook, in accordance with the following:

1. That permission be obtained from the Departments of Education and Finance to borrow up to \$11.5 million to finance the construction of the Exhibition Centre and 300-Bed Residence Complex at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College on the commitment from the Provincial Government to fund \$7.0 million of the total project cost (\$4.0 million for the Exhibition Centre and \$3.0 million towards the cost of the residence complex).
2. That an assurance be obtained from the Departments of Education and Finance that any financing costs incurred during the construction for the Exhibition Centre will be contributed by the Provincial Government as an additional amount.
3. That, subject to (1) and (2) above, proposals be sought for external financing of up to \$11.5 million.

Approval from the Board of Regents to proceed with the financing is required and will be sought pursuant to evaluation of proposals.

ITEM E - EMPLOYEE BENEFITS CHANGES

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approves the renewal of the University's current group benefit plans at their existing benefit levels for the policy year beginning 1 April 2000, as follows:

- ✍ Basic Life insurance plan at the existing rate,
- ✍ Dependent Life insurance plan at the existing rate,
- ✍ Optional Life insurance plan at the existing rate,
- ✍ Basic and Optional Accidental Death and Dismemberment plans at the existing rates,
- ✍ Voluntary Accidental Death and Dismemberment plan at the existing rate,
- ✍ Health plan at the existing rate; and

- ☞ Long Term Disability plan with a 36% rate increase (\$404,600), 15% (\$168,600) to be borne by employees through an actual rate increase, 21% (\$236,000) defrayed from accumulated surplus funds in the Long Term Disability plan.

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approves the following changes in the University's dental plan, effective 1 April 2000:

- (1) That the University fee schedule be advanced to conform with the 1998 Newfoundland Dental Society Fee Guide at a cost of 2%;
- (2) That half of the increase be borne by the surplus in the dental plan, until such time as the surplus is depleted, and the other half be borne jointly by the University and employees through a 1% rate increase; and
- (3) That the eligible examinations and cleanings be increased from one to two per year, at a cost of 3.6%, half of which is to be borne by the surplus in the dental plan, until such time as the surplus is depleted, and the other half to be borne jointly by the University and employees through a 1.8% rate increase.

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approves changes in costs associated with the University's dental plan, as follows:

- (1) That the University fee schedule be reviewed annually;
- (2) That the University fee schedule preferably not fall behind the Newfoundland Dental Society Fee Guide by more than two years; and
- (3) That costs associated with increases in fees be defrayed through a combination, where possible, of the dental plan surplus and a rate increase.
- (4) That any changes will require Board approval before implementation.

(B) APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

A Report of the Appointments Committee meeting held on 9 March 2000, copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting, was presented by Dr. Hedges, Vice-Chair of the Committee, and accepted by the Board.

Copies of an addendum to the Appointments Committee meeting containing recommendations for the appointment of the Dean of

Education and the Dean of Student Affairs and Services were circulated. After discussion, approval was given to the appointment of Dr. Barbara Burnaby as the Dean of Education, effective 1 July 2000. Approval was also given to the appointment of Dr. Lilly Walker as the Dean of Student Affairs and Services, effective 1 August 2000.

(C) CAMPUS PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Campus Planning and Development Committee meeting held on 6 March 2000, copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting, were presented by Mr. Short, Chair of the Committee. The following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approves the Policy for the Selection and Appointment of Prime Consultants for Major Capital Projects, as presented.

The minutes of the Campus Planning and Development Committee meeting held on 9 March 2000, copies of which were circulated at the meeting, were presented by Mr. Short, Chair of the Committee, and accepted by the Board. The following items were presented for information:

1. Field House Construction Costs
2. Financing of the Exhibition Centre and Residence Complex at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College (This matter was dealt with under Finance Committee Item 2732)

(D) EMPLOYEE BENEFITS COMMITTEE

A report of the Employee Benefits Committee meeting held on 25 January 2000, copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting, was presented by Ms. O'Neill, Chair of the Committee, and accepted by the Board. There were no items requiring specific approval of the Board.

(E) PENSIONS COMMITTEE

Copies of a report of the Pensions Committee meeting held on 11 January 2000 were circulated at the meeting. Copies of this report were inadvertently omitted from the Board package and, at the request of the Board Chair, it was agreed to defer consideration of this report until the May meeting of the Board.

6. SEPARATELY INCORPORATED ENTITIES

Copies of the background information pertaining to this matter were circulated prior to the meeting. After discussion, the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approves the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee, to consist of five members of the Board of Regents, to review the report on Separately Incorporated Entities (SIE's), wholly owned by Memorial University of Newfoundland, and to oversee the development of a policy on SIE's for subsequent Board approval.

The Chair requested members to advise him of their interest in serving on this committee.

7. ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH CENTRE

Copies of the recommendation and the background criteria for the establishment of this centre were circulated prior to the meeting.

After discussion, the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approves the establishment of a Memorial University Public Policy Research Centre, effective 1 April 2000, for a two-year period, in accordance with the guidelines set out in correspondence presented to the Board.

8. USE OF OPPORTUNITY FUND MATCHING MONIES

The Chair declared a conflict of interest with this item and absented himself from the meeting during the discussion. Ms. O'Neill assumed the duties of Chair during his absence.

The President provided the background to this matter advising that requests have recently been reiterated by donors for use of matching funds in whole or in part for projects in which donors are particularly interested. The University has followed a policy wherein matching monies are used in accordance with University priorities and decoupled from donors' requests.

After discussion, the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents confirms the current policy regarding the use of Opportunity Fund matching monies.

Mr. Roberts returned to Chair the meeting.

9. SENATE

The Minutes of the regular meeting of Senate held on 11 January 2000, and a summary of the minutes of the meeting of Senate held on 8 February 2000, copies of which were circulated, were presented by the President, and accepted by the Board.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Wednesday, 3 May 2000.
The Chair advised that he and the President will attend the Harlow
Trustees meeting during the week of 8 May.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.