

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

BOARD OF REGENTS

The regular meeting of the Board of Regents was held on Thursday, November 14, 1996, at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the University.

PRESENT:

Ms. Janet Gardiner, Chair
Ms. Jeannie French, Vice-Chair
Dr. Arthur May, President and Vice-Chancellor
Dr. Jaap Tuinman, Vice-President (Academic) and Pro Vice-Chancellor
Mr. Alick Andrews
Mr. Aubrey Bonnell
Ms. Trudi Brake
Mr. Fred Durant
Ms. Mary Ennis
Mr. Peter Fenwick
Ms. Gudrid Hutchings
Ms. Barbara Lewis
Dr. Robert MacLeod
Mr. Robert Mendoza
Mr. George Neal
Ms. Frankie O'Neill
Mr. David Power
Mr. Stephen Power
Mr. Alexander Roche
Mr. Robert Stack
Ms. Grace Stapleton
Ms. Betty Williams
Ms. Amy Wyse
Ms. Eleanor Bennett, Secretary

APOLOGIES: The Honourable John C. Crosbie, Chancellor, Mr. Jerry Bishop, Dr. Ches Blackwood, Mr. William Dilny 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, September 12, 1996, copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting, were accepted by the Board.

2. BUSINESS ARISING

1. NOMINEES TO THE CROWN FOUNDATION

The Chair advised the Board that the University nominees to the Crown Foundation are Mr. Charles White and Ms. Trudy Pound-Curtis. There were several other names suggested and all will be submitted to Government for their consideration.

2. UPDATES FOR INFORMATION

The following correspondence was circulated prior to the meeting for information:

(a) A memo from the Minister of Education to the President and press release dated October 23, 1996, advised of the cancellation of public exams for the 1996-97 school year.

(b) A letter from the Minister of Education to the President dated October 17, 1996, advised that under the authority of Section 36 of the Memorial University Act, the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council authorized the university to incur an operating deficit in 1996-97 of \$2.7 million and \$1.4 million in the 1997-98 fiscal year.

(c) A chronological summary from Dr. Jack Strawbridge updated the Board on the Panjabi matter. The President further advised that this matter had been concluded to the satisfaction of both parties.

(d) A summary of a decision from J. Halley with respect to the arbitration matter concerning a request for the University to transfer pension credits from the Teachers Pension Plan to Memorial University Pension Plan on the basis that they had worked for ten days in the Newfoundland school system, advised that the court has no jurisdiction to hear the matter.

3. MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

1. FINANCE COMMITTEE

A draft of the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on November 14, 1996, copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting, was presented by Ms. Jeannie French. The following resolutions were passed with respect to the items contained therein which required approval of the Board:

ITEM A – STRAWBERRY HILL DEVELOPMENT

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents grants approval to adjust the number of chalets and sites at Strawberry Hill to a mix of singles and duplexes designed to satisfy market demand. The projection is for 19 sites.

ITEM B – SOCIAL WORK MASTERS PROGRAMME – P.E.I.

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents grants approval to the following:

(1) To change the title, approved by the Board of Regents at its meeting of October 12, 1995, from educational supplement to extra tuition fee.

(2) To charge a one-time non-refundable extra tuition fee of \$3,500.00 per student, to cover the cost of delivering the Master of Social Work program to Prince Edward Island.

ITEM C – AMENDMENTS TO MUN PENSION PLAN

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents grants approval to the following:

(1) That The Memorial University Pensions Act be amended to remove the 35-year maximum accrual of pensionable service and enable employees who have already attained maximum service to rejoin the Memorial University Pension Plan on a prospective basis.

(2) That The Memorial University Pension Act be amended to enable employees to elect early retirement, with a reduced pension (calculated at one-half of one percent for each month from date of retirement to the first day of the month following age 55), upon reaching age 50 with a minimum of 30 years' pensionable service.

ITEM D – INTEGRATION OF LABOUR RELATIONS (STAFF) WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents grants approval to the following:

(1) That the function of Staff Relations be reintegrated into the Department of Human Resources.

(2) That the position of Director of Staff Relations be retitled to Associate Director (Staff Relations) and A.D.R. (Alternative Dispute Resolution) Coordinator, and that the current Director of Staff Relations (Mr. Claude Horlick) be assigned to this position.

(3) That a percentage of the work time of the Labour Relations Officer position and the Intermediate Secretary position be allocated to the Department of Human Resources, with the actual allocation to be determined between the Director of Faculty Relations and the Director of Human Resources.

2. APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

A Report of the Appointments Committee meeting held on November 14, 1996, copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting, was 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 November 13, 1996, copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting, was presented by the Chair of the Committee, Ms. Grace Stapleton, and accepted by the Board. There were no items requiring specific approval of the Board.

4. PENSIONS COMMITTEE

A Summary of Business transacted at the Pensions Committee meeting held on November 14, 1996, copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting, was presented by the Chair of the Committee, Ms. Frankie O'Neill, and accepted by the Board. There were no items requiring specific approval of the Board.

4. SENATE MINUTES

The Minutes of the regular meeting of Senate held on September 10, 1996, copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting, were presented by the President. Specific approval was given to the following item:

ITEM 4 – REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the regular meeting of Senate held on October 8, 1996, copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting, were presented by the President. Approval was given to these Minutes with the exception of Item 11.3 "Proposed New Honours Programme in Computer Science." The Board will examine this item further at its meeting of January 9, 1997.

5. AMENDMENTS TO THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL OF SIR WILFRED GRENFELL COLLEGE

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents grants approval to the amendments to the membership of the Academic Council of Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, as outlined in the documentation from the Secretary of Senate dated September 23, 1996.

6. AMENDMENTS TO THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL OF THE SCHOOL OF NURSING

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents grants approval to the amendments to the Constitution of the Academic Council of the School of Nursing, as outlined in the documentation from the Secretary of Senate dated September 23, 1996.

7. CHAIR'S BUSINESS

1. ART GALLERY

The Chair referred the Board to the Annual Report of the Art Gallery, copies of which were circulated previously. She noted that the first full year of operation had seen a very successful transition to a University-owned Corporation. She further advised that Dr. Ted Rowe, Chair of the Art Gallery Board of Directors, had accepted an invitation to address the Board at its dinner following the meeting.

2. REAPPOINTMENT OF ALEXANDER ROCHE

The Chair advised that she had received official notification from the Minister of Education reappointing Mr. Alexander Roche to a further three-year term as a member of the Board of Regents, with effect from October 14, 1996.

3. CONGRATULATIONS TO SECRETARY

The Chair and members of the Board congratulated the Board Secretary for receipt of a certificate and pin in recognition of 25 years of service to the University.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

The Chair tabled a letter of thanks from Dr. Alex Hay who had written to express his appreciation to the Board for action taken on his behalf.

9. UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY

The President referred the Board to correspondence between the President and Mr. Loyola Sullivan, PC Opposition Leader, regarding the issue of University autonomy which had resurfaced as a consequence of a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act.

After discussion the Board endorsed the following resolution of Senate which was passed at its meeting of November 12, 1996:

"That Senate express its support to the President in his efforts to ensure that the autonomy of the University and its fundamental right of academic freedom not be abridged through legislation or actions of the Government, in particular by treating the University as an agency of Government."

10. MEDICAL BOARD NOMINEES

The President advised the Board of three nominees, one of whom will be appointed by the Minister of Health as the University's representative on the Newfoundland Medical Board.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

1. CONDUCT OF BOARD BUSINESS

The Chair referred the Board to her memo on the conduct of Board business. She noted that from now on the Board will meet bi-monthly with meetings for the remainder of the academic year being scheduled for January 9, March 13, May 8 and a final meeting on June 12, 1997.

She also noted that membership of the Employee Benefits and Pensions committees is presently constrained by the various collective agreements but every effort is being made to streamline these arrangements. It was decided that for the time being these two committees will meet in conjunction with Board meetings.

12. FACULTY PRODUCTIVITY

Dr. Tuinman provided the Board with a brief address on faculty productivity at Memorial.

13. WORKLOAD: THE MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY PERSPECTIVE

Circulated for information were copies of a report entitled "Workload: The Memorial University Perspective," which was presented at a meeting of Vice-Presidents of Canadian Universities.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.