



Board of Regents

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

BOARD OF REGENTS

The regular meeting of the Board of Regents was held on Thursday, 14 September 2000 in the Board Room of the University at 2:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Mr. Edward Roberts, Chair
Mr. Aubrey Bonnell, Vice-Chair
Mr. John Crosbie, Chancellor
Dr. Axel Meisen, President and Vice-Chancellor
Dr. Evan Simpson, Vice President (Academic) and Pro Vice-Chancellor
Mr. Alick Andrews
Ms. Gail Aylward
Mr. Peter Barnes
Mr. Hayward Blake
Mr. Robert Brown
Mr. Calvin Butt
Mr. Chris Decker
Mr. Fred Durant
Mr. Peter Fenwick
Dr. Georgina Hedges
Mr. Ed Kelly
Ms. Nancy Kelly
Dr. Brendan Lewis
Ms. Frankie O'Neill
Mr. Larry Peckford
Ms. Joan Pinsent
Mr. David Power
Mr. Harvey Short
Ms. Susan Wood
Ms. Eleanor Bennett, Secretary

APOLOGIES: Ms. Lisa Browne, Ms. Sharon Duggan, Mr. Brendan Paddick and Ms. Lorelei Stanley.

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

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Special meeting of the Board of Regents held on 11 and 12 August 2000, copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting, were approved by the Board.

2. CHAIR'S REPORT

1. Newfoundland Supreme Court Decision

The Chair noted that Dr. Kathleen Kufelt, former Chair in Child Protection in the School of Social Work, had lost a three year court battle with the University. She had sued the University for damages claiming she was wrongfully dismissed from her position after reaching mandatory retirement at age 65. The University argued that the court had no jurisdiction to adjudicate the dispute as it was a matter covered by a collective agreement and therefore should be decided by an arbitrator. Newfoundland Supreme Court Justice James Adams filed a decision recently in favour of the University.

2. Newfoundland Medical Board Nominees

The Board received a note from the Chair advising of a request from the Minister of Health to submit a list of not less than three nominees for appointment to the Newfoundland Medical Board. The Chair, in consultation with the President, suggested that the Board put forward five names. The Board concurred with the names submitted and the Chair agreed to write the Minister in this regard.

3. University Centre Naming Committee Report

The Board received copies of a letter signed by Darren Newton, President of the Graduate Students' Union, Keith Dunne, President of Memorial University Students' Union, and Adam Dutton, a member of the University Centre Naming Committee, expressing their concerns with the University Centre Naming Committee Report. The Chair reminded Board members that the Report was submitted to the Board at its 11 and 12 August 2000 meeting and approval was

subsequently given to name the centre the Joseph R. Smallwood University Centre.

The Chair sought the advice of the Board members present who served on the University Centre Naming Committee (Mr. Bonnell, Mr. Short and Ms. Wood). They stated that the Report was an accurate account of the committee's deliberations and conclusions.

The Board again reviewed this report, after which it was unanimously agreed that the decision taken at the 11 and 12 August 2000 meeting would stand. The Chair agreed to write Mr. Newton, Mr. Dunne and Mr. Dutton to advise them of the Board's response and to inform them that a meeting could be arranged should they wish to discuss the matter further.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. Enrollment

Circulated at the meeting were copies of enrollment statistics outlining comparison of the enrollments of the Fall Semester 1998-2000; enrollment analysis; Undergraduate course Registrations and Wait Lists for the Fall semester 1999 and 2000 for the St. John's, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College and for Distance Education. During discussion the President pointed out that enrollments (expressed in terms of course registrations) were up by approximately 1% over last year. He credited this mainly to the concerted efforts of the Recruitment Office and many other members of the University.

2. Orientation Week Activities

The President reported on Orientation Week activities. He advised that the Entrance Scholarship Awards ceremony held during Orientation Week was very well attended, and a reception held for Parents of new students turned out to be a very successful event.

3. Oil and Gas Partnership Announcement

The President reported that on 6 September 2000 the Oil and Gas Partnership was announced. He noted that this event was attended by the Premier and members from industry and the university, and was very well received.

4. Appointment of Dr. Ron Sparkes

The President reported on the announcement of Dr. Ron Sparkes as Director of the Labrador Institute. He advised that this announcement had taken place in Labrador and received good media attention. Dr. Sparkes commenced his appointment on 15 September 2000.

5. Visits

The President reported on his recent visits to the Far East. He advised that he initiated cooperation agreements with the Chonnam University of Korea and the National Taiwan Ocean University in Taiwan. He also met with representatives of Daewoo Heavy Industries in Korea who have specific interests in collaborating with Memorial in research and development on autonomous underwater vehicles. He noted that he was pleased that Memorial University is very well regarded in the areas of Marine Studies and Ocean Engineering.

4. LABOUR RELATIONS ISSUES

The Chair provided a verbal account of the Labour Relations Committee meeting held on 14 September 2000. Mr. Thistle provided an update on contract talks with CUPE Local 3336, representing staff at the Canada Games Park Inc. He reported on the outstanding issues that are being addressed.

Mr. Thistle also provided an update on negotiations with CUPE Local 1615, representing administrative, instructional, technical and technical support personnel. The Board reviewed the resolved and unresolved issues to date. Both parties will be in a strike/lockout position by 21 September 2000. It was the consensus of the Board to maintain the University's current position and salary offer.

The Chair provided the background on negotiations with MUNFA. He advised that a salary offer has not as yet been made to MUNFA. While the University realizes that faculty salaries are below the norm for their counterparts at other Canadian universities, a salary proposal cannot be developed without the assistance and support of government. He advised that University officials have met with Government officials to discuss this objective.

He reiterated the Board's position with respect to pensions in that the University will not negotiate changes to the Pension Plan and the University is not prepared to offer an early retirement program within collective bargaining. He advised that pension issues will be addressed through the newly established

Ad Hoc Committee on Pensions. Both parties could be in a strike/lockout position by mid October.

The Board was advised that the University has developed a strike contingency plan along with a public relations strategy to apprise students, faculty and staff and the general public of the labour issues. University officials remain confident that a settlement can be reached with all three union groups without a labour disruption. The Board concurred with this.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT REPORT

The Board received background information pertaining to the Environmental Audit Report prepared by Jacques Whitford Environmental Limited and Pinchin LeBlanc Environmental Limited for the Department of Facilities Management. The Board reviewed copies of the University's responses to each of the concerns raised in the Report. The Board also reviewed a communications plan developed to facilitate the release of the report and communicate the University's strategy to address any environmental deficiencies, as well as future plans in the area of Environmental Management.

Mr. Short, the Chair of the Campus Planning and Development Committee, requested that the release date for the report be delayed until 20 September 2000 to allow the Board ample time to review the material presented. The Campus Planning and Development Committee will follow up on this matter and report back to the Board at a future meeting. After discussion, the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approves the release of the Environmental Audit Report and endorses the University's response and communications plan, with a release date to the public of 20 September 2000.

6. MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

1. APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

A Report of the Appointments Committee meeting held on 14 September 2000 copies of which were circulated, was presented by Ms. Aylward, Chair of the Committee, and accepted by the Board.

The Board reviewed a recommendation to change the practice of approving Leave Without Pay for non-academic staff. It was agreed that in future approval for such action be delegated to the Department of Human Resources and be reported to the Appointments Committee along with all other non-academic staff changes in the Personnel Report.

The following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents delegates authority to the Department of Human Resources to approve Leaves Without Pay for non-academic staff and to report such actions in the monthly Personnel Report.

2. CAMPUS PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Campus Planning and Development Committee meeting held on 14 September 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 resolution was passed:

1. Bonne Bay Marine and Research Centre and Possible Land Acquisition

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approves the commencement of negotiations to acquire four parcels of property adjacent to properties presently owned by the University and which are necessary to allow development of construction of the new Bonne Bay Marine and Research Centre at Norris Point. This approval is subject to subsequent approval of the purchase by the Province and subject to confirmation that funding for the property acquisition will be available as part of the project budget.

Other items presented for information:

(a) Update on Financing of the Exhibition Centre and Residence Project at Corner Brook

(b) Recladding of the Arts and Science Building, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College

3. AD HOC COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL PROSPECTS

A report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Financial Prospects meeting held on 14 September 2000, copies of which were circulated at the meeting, was presented by Mr. Fenwick, Chair of the Committee, and accepted by the Board. Mr. Fenwick elaborated on a report to the committee by Dr. Simpson outlining his efforts with respect to the establishment of faculty complements for academic units at the University. Mr. Fenwick noted that tuition fee structures were discussed and advised that the policy issue surrounding tuition increases will be fully investigated and debated before the current tuition freeze is lifted. A further report will be made at a future Board meeting.

7. SENATE MATTERS

The Minutes of a special meeting of Senate held on 13 June 2000 were received by the Board. The Board approved the following items contained therein:

Item 113 Report of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

- 113.1 - Changes to Application for Admission Deadline Date
- 113.2 - Calendar Changes - School of Nursing: Prior Learning Assessment
- 113.3 - Department of Geography - Calendar Changes

Item 114 Report of the Academic Council of the School of Graduate Studies

- 114.1 - Block of Special Topics Numbers - Faculty of Business Administration
- 114.2 - Revisions to Graduate Programme - Department of Folklore
- 114.3 - Revisions to Graduate Programme - Department of French and Spanish

Item 115 Diploma in Advanced Studies in Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Ocean Engineering and Environmental Engineering and Applied Science

The Board's attention was drawn to the following items as a special interest:

- Item 112 Report of the Steering Committee on Course Evaluations
- Item 118 Revised University Policy on Integrity in Scholarly Research

8. CHANGE OF NAME - SEABRIGHT CORPORATION LIMITED

The Board received a recommendation from the Board of Directors of Seabright Corporation Limited that the company's corporate name be changed to GENESIS Group Inc. The Board reviewed the background information

concerning this recommendation and, after discussion, the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approves a recommendation that the corporate name of Seabright Corporation Limited be changed to GENESIS Group Inc.

9. MARKET DIFFERENTIAL INCREASE FOR I.T. POSITIONS

The Board received documentation supporting a recommendation to increase the market differential for Information Technology positions. After review of the background material pertaining to this matter the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approves a recommendation to increase the market differential as presented.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Dinner for New Faculty

The Chair advised that the Board would host a dinner, after some future Board meeting, to provide an opportunity to meet newly appointed faculty.

2. Expiration of terms for Board members

The Chair acknowledged that this was the last Board meeting for Mr. Brown, whose term expires 4 November 2000. The Chair on behalf of the members of the Board thanked him for his contribution during his term and wished him well for the future.

The Chair reminded members that the terms of appointment of 13 Board members, who were appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, will expire on 14 October 2000. He anticipated that an announcement regarding reappointments and new appointments would be forthcoming from the Minister of Education.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.