



Board of Regents
MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

BOARD OF REGENTS

The regular meeting of the Board of Regents was held on Thursday, 5 April 2001 in the Board Room of the University at 2:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Edward Roberts, Chair
Dr. Axel Meisen, President and Vice-Chancellor
Dr. Evan Simpson, Vice President (Academic) and Pro Vice-Chancellor
Gail Aylward
Peter Barnes
Hayward Blake
Calvin Butt
Samuel Chaulk
Chris Decker
Sharon Duggan
Fred Durant
Dorothy George
Dr. Georgina Hedges
Ed Kelly
Nancy Kelly
Dr. Brendan Lewis
Brendan Paddick
Joan Pinsent
Darlene Russell
Harvey Short
Kathryn Small
Lorelei Stanley-Newton

APOLOGIES: Alick Andrews, Lisa Browne, John Crosbie, Chancellor, and Larry Peckford.

PRESENT BY CONFERENCE CALL: Susan Wood

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

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Regents held on 12 February 2001 and of the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board held on 29 March 2001, copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting, were approved by the Board.

2. CHAIR'S REPORT

PROPOSAL - NEW COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

The Chair proposed that the Board defer consideration of this item to a meeting of the Board planned for Terra Nova in August. Community relations will be considered at this time.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President gave a report on a conference and several meetings that he had attended since the last Board meeting. He and the Chair had met with the Premier, Minister Sandra Kelly and staff re student indebtedness and tuition fees. Dr. Meisen wanted to ensure that the Premier and the Minister understood tuition fees are only a part of the issue of student indebtedness. Dr. Meisen also reported on his 6 March meeting with Minister Kelly and officials of her department. Dr. Meisen met with Minister Thibault who reports to the Honourable Brian Tobin regarding the Atlantic Innovation Fund of \$300 million.

Dr. Meisen reported that in connection with the search for the Director of Alumni Affairs and Development, the Search Committee has identified a short list of three candidates and the Committee will meet them again. The recommendation for a Director of Alumni Affairs and Development will be in time for the May Board Meeting.

Dr. Meisen stated that the search for the Vice-President (Research and International Relations) will be a national search.

Dr. Meisen attended the Directions North Conference in Happy Valley-Goose Bay which is held every 10 years. There were 200 people present at the Conference. Discussions included first-year university programs for Labrador

and better access to education and research opportunities. Dr. Meisen mentioned the Labrador Institute presence in Labrador and Minister Lush's announcement of the Government grant of \$100,000 for the Labrador Associate.

He attended an Honours and Awards parade of the Newfoundland Regiment and it presented an opportunity to reinforce the relationship between the Regiment and the University. The possibility of attracting students to serve as reservists was discussed. This is a training and experience program offering opportunities to have tuition paid. The visit was facilitated by Mr. Barnes. Dr. Meisen acknowledged this, and thanked him.

Dr. Meisen circulated a document on research activities. He reported there have been five major research awards as well as two nominations for Canada Research Chairs.

Dr. Meisen presented a summary of CFI applications for equipment and facilities. CFI pays 40 percent of total project cost and the balance is from other sources. In many other provinces, matching money is committed by government. Lack of matching money is a serious problem in Atlantic Canada.

Mr. Kelly thanked Dr. Meisen for the time he is devoting to making the University's presence known in Labrador.

Dr. Meisen visited Gander and Glovertown and met with the Alumni and the Chamber of Commerce and business leaders. There was strong interest in the University and a strong desire for closer relations with the University and the community.

4. MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

1. FINANCE

A draft of the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 5 April 2001, copies of which were circulated at the meeting, was presented by Mr. Short, Chair of the Committee, who asked the Board to approve the following items:

Item A - Restructuring of Financial Services

The Board received and reviewed background information requesting approval to streamline and improve the delivery of financial services to the University community and the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approves the combining of activities currently taking place in the Comptroller's Office and the Office of Budgets and Audits in a consolidated Financial and Administrative Services Department.

Item B - Tuition Fee Reduction

Dr. Meisen reported that this is currently only an information item. The University is presently working with the officials of Government to determine the specific courses and programs to which the tuition reduction will apply. A detailed recommendation will be submitted to the Board for consideration at the May meeting. It is anticipated that the Fall 2001 semester will be the start date of the reduction. The President also confirmed that Government had included in the University's grant an amount to offset the reduction in tuition fees.

Item C - Employee Benefits Plans

Ms. Duggan, Chair of the Employee Benefits Committee, presented a submission from the Committee. Extensive discussion took place regarding the options available to the Board. She noted that the recommendation to renew the Dental Plan required the use of only \$20,005 of the balance of the surplus of \$140,377. The Board received and reviewed background information regarding the University's Group Benefits Program and the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

1. That the following benefit plans be renewed at their existing benefit levels for the policy year beginning 1 April 2001:

- (i) Basic, Dependent and Optional Life insurance plans at the existing rates,
- (ii) Basic and Optional Accidental Death and Dismemberment plans at the existing rates,
- (iii) Voluntary Accidental Death and Dismemberment plan at the existing rate,
- (iv) Health plan at a 16.6% rate increase,
- (v) Worldwide Travel Assistance plan at 138% rate increase, and
- (vi) Long Term Disability plan at the current employee rate of \$1.47/100 of benefit (with continuation of rate subsidization of \$0.27/100 from remaining surplus funds) until May 31, 2001, with an employee rate increase of 22 % (\$1.794/100), effective June 1, 2001.

2. That the Dental Plan be renewed effective 1 April 2001, at a 7.7% rate increase.
3. That the Dental fee schedule be advanced to confirm to the 1999 Newfoundland Dental Society Fee Guide at an incremental cost of 4% to be funded 50% through an actual rate increase and 50% through use of accumulated surplus in the Dental plan.
4. That notice be provided that the Board is considering making the retiree segment of the WorldWide Travel policy subject to a "pre-existing condition" clause, effective 1 April 2002. The "pre-existing condition" clause, which has already been implemented in most of Atlantic Blue Cross Care's book of business, would preclude payment of claims relating to a pre-existing medical condition/illness/injury, and
5. That the Administration be requested to conduct a study of the longer term implications of the costs and the benefit plans with a goal to report back to the Board in November 2001.

2. APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

A report of the Appointments Committee meeting held on 5 April 2001, along with an addendum, copies of which were circulated at the meeting, was presented by Ms. Aylward, Chair of the Committee, and was accepted by the Board.

5. A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY

The document entitled A Strategic Framework for Memorial University was circulated in the February Board meeting material but was deferred to the April meeting. Dr. Simpson gave a presentation on the document. After comments from members of the Board, the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board endorses The Strategic Framework for Memorial University adopted by Senate in December, 2000 and directs the President to report to Regents periodically, but not less than annually, on progress regarding the goals described in the Strategic Framework.

6. UPDATE ON MARINE INSTITUTE INSTRUCTOR NEGOTIATIONS

Dr. Meisen gave a brief report and the Board received and reviewed background information pertaining to the ratification of the tentative Collective Agreement with NAPE, Local 7405, on behalf of the Instructors, Demonstrators and Technical Assistants at the Marine Institute.

Mr. Thistle also added for the information of Board members that just prior to the meeting he had been informed that the results of the vote were 82% in favor of approving the tentative agreement.

After brief discussion, the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board approves the ratification of the tentative collective agreement between the University and NAPE, Local 7405, on behalf of the Marine Institute Instructors, Demonstrators and Technical Assistants.

7. MANAGEMENT STRATEGY OF THE UNIVERSITY POOLED INVESTMENT FUNDS

The Board received and reviewed background information pertaining to the Management Strategy of the University Pooled Investment Funds. Ms. Trudy Pound-Curtis, the Director of Financial and Administrative Services, gave a presentation to Board members. Mr. Will Small, Scotia McLeod, was also in attendance. After brief discussion, the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board approves a change in the management strategy of the Pooled Investment Fund to one that employs a multi-asset, multi-manager and multi-style portfolio approach **AND THAT** the investments continue to be consistent with the University's investment policy as established by the Board from time to time **AND THAT** the Investment Committee continue to act as the managing fiduciary for the Fund employing operating fiduciaries with specialized knowledge skills.

8. SENATE MATTERS

The Board received and reviewed the Minutes of Senate of the regular meeting held on 13 February 2001. There were no items that required specific Board approval.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

The Board received a copy of a letter from Dr. D.W.R. Wright, on his retirement as Trustee and Chairman of the Memorial University of Newfoundland's Harlow Campus Trust, thanking the Board for the presents and his appointment as Chairman Emeritus.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair informed the Board there will be another meeting during the summer at Terra Nova. It could be three days/two nights, possibly in early August. Agenda items will be discussed with Dr. Meisen.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.