



Board of Regents

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

BOARD OF REGENTS

A special meeting of the Board of Regents was held on Tuesday, 14 August 2001 at the Terra Nova Golf Resort in Port Blandford, at 2:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Edward Roberts, Chair

John Crosbie, Chancellor

Dr. Axel Meisen, President and Vice-Chancellor

Dr. Evan Simpson, Vice President (Academic) and Pro Vice-Chancellor

Alick Andrews

Gail Aylward

Hayward Blake

Lisa Browne

Calvin Butt

Samuel Chaulk

Brett Dawe

Dr. Georgina Hedges

Ed Kelly

Dr. Brendan Lewis

Joan Pinsent

Harvey Short

Kathryn Small

Susan Wood

Eleanor Bennett, Secretary

APOLOGIES: Peter Barnes, Chris Decker, Sharon Duggan, Fred Durant, Dorothy George, Nancy Kelly, Brendan Paddick, Larry Peckford, Darlene Russell and Lorelei Stanley-Newton.

PRESENT BY INVITATION: 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 29 May 2001, copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting, were approved by the Board.

2.CHAIR'S REPORT

1. Appointments to the Board

The Chair welcomed Mr. Dawe to his first Board meeting. He reported that the Minister had advised him that Government had appointed Mr. Dawe for a two-year term (as a student member) and reappointed Ms. Stanley-Newton for a three-year term, both with effect from 9 August 2001.

2. Expression of Sympathy - Dr. F. W. Russell

The Chair advised that Dr. F. W. Russell had passed away on 20 June 2001. The following resolution was passed with respect to an expression of sympathy to the family:

RESOLVED THAT the Regents of Memorial University of Newfoundland note with sorrow the death of the Honourable Dr. Frederick William Russell, and extend their sincere condolences to Mrs. Russell and the members of their family;

AND THAT the Board acknowledge with gratitude the great contribution Dr. Russell made to the University during his 21 years of service as a Regent, from 1961 to 1982, and in particular during his eight years as Chairman of the Board, between 1974 and 1982.

3. Future Meeting Dates

The Board agreed it will meet on the following dates during the academic year 2001-2002:

Thursday, 18 October 2001 (to coincide with Fall Convocation)
Thursday, 6 December 2001
Thursday, 31 January 2002 (To be held in Corner Brook)
Thursday, 28 March 2002
Thursday, 28 May 2002 (To coincide with Spring Convocation)
Wednesday and Thursday, 24 and 25 July 2002

Special Meetings will be at the call of the Chair

4. Major Issues for Future Consideration

The Board received and reviewed a summary of major issues for future consideration which had been identified at the December 2000 Board meeting. Updates on some of the issues were provided through the regular agenda items during the meeting and further updates will be provided at future meetings.

5. Harlow Campus Renovation Update

The Chair reported that he had advised the Minister of Youth Services and Post-Secondary Education of the Board's resolution passed at the 29 May meeting concerning the proposed renovation plan of the Harlow campus. It is anticipated that Government will consider this matter soon in order to take advantage of the time required for the shut down to upgrade the physical facilities.

He reported that he and the President will be attending the Harlow Board of Trustees meeting in October as well as other related functions during the visit.

3. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

1. Discovery Smart Conference

The President reported on the conference held in Clarendville from 17 to 19 June, attended by over 200 participants. The objective of the conference was to assist the region in becoming a centre for Information Technology, especially as it relates to FishNet, YouthNet and HealthinfoNet. He thanked Ms. Small, the conference organizer, and Ms. Brown for their input and support.

2. Meeting with Deputy Ministers

The President advised that he had met with Deputy Ministers on 20 June for a familiarization session on issues of common interest including budgetary matters and issues relating to high-school students seeking post-secondary education.

3. NOIA Conference

The President reported that he had attended the NOIA conference held in St. John's on 20-21 June. He advised that he had served as Chair of the session on Research Frontiers and that four MUN professors had presented papers in their specific areas.

4. Festival 500

The President reported on the Festival 500 held in St. John's for two weeks in late June and early July. There were over 1,500 participants from all over the world in attendance. He acknowledged the important role played by the School of Music and reported that the funds contributed by the University paid for the recording of a CD, which will be used by the University for promotional purposes.

5. Enrolment

The President advised that numbers are not conclusive at the present time as the University is still compiling figures. He acknowledged that the introduction of public exams has had an impact on the number of enrolments. A more detailed report will be presented later in the meeting.

6. Beaumont-Hamel Event

The President advised that he had attended the ceremonies on 1 July 2001 at Beaumont-Hamel to commemorate the 85th anniversary of the commencement of the Battle of the Somme. The Minister of Industry, the Honourable Brian Tobin, led the Canadian delegation which included veterans, representatives of veterans organizations, the Lieutenant Governor and other representatives of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and youth representatives. The President advised that he was honoured to lay a wreath at the memorial on behalf of the University. Also included in the ceremonies was the official opening of a Visitors Centre, a part of which depicts what life was like in Newfoundland at the time of the war.

The Board viewed a video of the ceremony to commemorate the 85th anniversary of the Battle of Beaumont-Hamel and the official opening of the Beaumont-Hamel/Newfoundland Visitors Centre, which had been broadcast across the country on 1 July 2001.

4.BUDGET

The Board received and reviewed a summary document of the budget analysis for the fiscal year 2001-02. The Board was advised of a shortfall which represents the difference between the amount required for the University to operate and the amounts provided by the March 2001 government grant. The Board was advised of the three principal factors influencing the budget compared with the fiscal year 2000-01: (1) Salary changes consisting of general and step increases, "Me Too" increases for staff, and the faculty Occupational Adjustments. (2) Essential operational and capital expenses, primarily related to rising energy costs and the

operation of the new Field House. In addition there are a number of capital projects to be undertaken by the University the majority of which are related to health, safety and environmental requirements. (3) Government policy to achieve a 10% reduction in tuition fees and the impact of a third year of an effective tuition freeze.

The Board reviewed several potential sources to fund the shortfall. The Chair reminded the Board that the University is required by the Act to provide a balanced budget each year and further that the University is not permitted to borrow to achieve this.

The Board received and reviewed a summary of the University's Capital Projects, which was circulated prior to the meeting. Other major capital projects were identified.

The Chair advised that he, the President and Mr. Short had met recently with the Ministers of Finance and of Youth Services and Post-Secondary Education, accompanied by their officials to discuss these budget issues. Meetings with government are continuing and it was hoped that a conclusion could be reached in the very near future.

The Chair said that a special meeting of the Board may be called prior to the 18 October scheduled meeting to consider Government's reaction to the University's budget.

Further discussion of the budget issues took place during sessions on Wednesday and Thursday, 15 and 16 August, and are summarized above.

5.LABOUR RELATIONS MATTERS

1. Marine Institute Instructors

The Board received and reviewed information concerning a wage re-opener clause in the recently ratified Marine Institute Instructor's Collective Agreement. After discussion, the following resolution was passed:

1. Marine Institute Instructors

RESOLVED

That the Board of Regents approves the extension to the Collective Agreement between the University and NAPE, Local 7405, on behalf of the Marine Institute Instructors, Demonstrators and Technical Assistants, to March 31, 2004 from August 31, 2003, and

to incorporate the Public Sector settlement wage increases applicable during that period.

2. CUPE Local 1615

The Board received and reviewed information relating to a wage re-opener clause in the Collective Agreement between the University and CUPE Local 1615 which includes a commitment to match the wage settlements of other public sector unions with the provincial government.

After discussion, the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approves the Memorandum of Settlement reached between Memorial University of Newfoundland and Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 1615, on Wage Re-opener Clause, Appendix B-2, Collective Agreement, October 1, 1999 - September 30, 2001, reflecting the public sector settlements.

3. Salary Increases - Non-Bargaining Unit Employees

The Board received and reviewed information pertaining to a 5% salary increase for non-bargaining unit, non-academic employees. The Board was advised that Government has not as yet made a decision to apply the 5% salary increase to employees in their managerial and professional positions. In view of this and to be consistent with Government, it was decided to defer a decision on the 5% salary increase for employees in the management and professional group as well as the executive group until such time as government makes a decision on a similar wage increase. After discussion, the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approves a 5% salary increase for employees within the Non-Bargaining unit group, effective April 1, 2001. A decision to approve salary increases for employees within the Management & Professional and Executive groups has been set aside for the time being.

4. Expiry Dates of University Collective Agreements

Copies of a summary of expiry dates of University Collective Agreements was circulated prior to the meeting for the information of the Board. The Board approved the President's recommendation that salary changes harmonize with the Government's template for public sector employees. The University is keeping officials of Treasury Board apprised of the University's state of negotiations.

MEETING ADJOURNED AND RECONVENED 15 AUGUST 2001

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. and reconvened on Wednesday, 15 August 2001 at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Crosbie was absent.

6.APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE MATTERS

A Report of the Appointments Committee meeting held on 15 August 2001, copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting, as well as an addendum, was presented by Ms. Aylward, Chair of the Committee. The Board approved the appointments recommended by the Committee.

7. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS COMMITTEE REPORT

A Report of the Employee Benefits Committee meeting held on 18 June 2001, copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting, was presented by Dr. Meisen and accepted by the Board. The Board was advised of a review of fertility medications benefit under the University's Health Plan.

8.SENATE MATTERS

The Board received and reviewed copies of the Minutes of the Senate meeting held on 8 May 2001. Approval was given to the following items requiring Board approval under Sections 56(h) (courses of study) and 56(s) (making or altering a rule or regulation) of the Act:

Item 85 - Report of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

85.1 - Sir Wilfred Grenfell college - Calendar Changes

85.2 - Proposed Changes to Memorial University's Grading System

Item 87 - Report of the Academic Council of the School of Graduate Studies

87.1 - Proposed Changes to Computational Science Programme

87.2 - Faculty of Medicine - Calendar Change

87.3 - Changes to General Regulation J.3 and J.4

87.4 - School of Music - Proposed New M.Mus. Degree

9.ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA RECIPIENTS

The Board was advised that Dr. Jean Briggs of the Department of Anthropology and Dr. Derek Nurse of the Department of Linguistics were elected as Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada. The Secretary was requested to write the recipients and offer the Board's congratulations.

10.FINANCE MATTERS

1. Program Fee - Full-Time Diploma in I.T.

The Board received and reviewed a recommendation to change the program fee for students in the full-time Diploma in Information Technology programme to include the cost of materials, curriculum and software for offering the official curricula of CISCO, Oracle, and Microsoft. After discussion the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED

That the Board of Regents approves an increase in the program fee for students in the full-time Diploma in Information Technology program from \$11,500 to \$12,500, effective the Fall Semester 2001.

2. Per Credit Hour Tuition Fee - Part-Time Diploma in I.T.

The Board received and reviewed a recommendation to apply a per-credit-hour tuition fee for students in the part-time section of the Diploma in Information Technology programme, which will include the cost of materials, curriculum and software for offering the official curricula of CISCO, Oracle, and Microsoft. After discussion the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approves the implementation of a per-credit-hour tuition fee of \$280 for new students entering the part-time section of the Diploma in Information Technology program, effective the Fall Semester 2001.

3. Director of MedCareers - Stipend

The Board received and reviewed a recommendation to increase the stipend of the Director of MedCareers in the Faculty of Medicine. After discussion the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approves an increase in the stipend of the Director of MedCareers in the Faculty of Medicine.

4. Hosting Policy Revisions

The Board received and reviewed background information pertaining to a recommendation for revisions to the University's Hosting Policy. The Board was advised that the recommended changes will not exceed the Provincial Government Policy for Entertainment Expenses. After discussion the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approves revisions to the University's Hosting Policy, as presented.

11. PROPOSAL FOR NEW BOARD COMMITTEE

The Board reviewed a proposal from Mr. Peckford, who was unable to attend the meeting, for the establishment of a new committee dedicated to students and alumni. The Board agreed to the withdrawal of the proposal submitted and agreed that it can be resubmitted at a future meeting.

12. ATLANTIC INNOVATION FUND

The Chair welcomed Dr. Chris Loomis, Acting Vice-President of Research and International Relations, to the meeting. The Board received and reviewed copies of background information pertaining to the Atlantic Innovation Fund (AIF) and Dr. Loomis provided a presentation to the Board. The AIF is a component of the \$700 million Atlantic Innovation Partnership (AIP), which will support major investments in the areas of innovation, community economic development, trade and investment, and entrepreneurship and business skills development. The \$300 million, 5-year AIF fund will focus on key areas of economic potential and will assist the Atlantic Canadian Universities in expanding their research and teaching initiatives in a number of areas which are of strategic economic importance. Dr. Loomis reminded the Board that former MUN President, Dr. Arthur May, will chair the 10-member Advisory Board, which will guide the AIF by making recommendations on specific project proposals and providing advice to the Minister responsible for ACOA on strategic directions for the AIF.

The Board received and reviewed a summary of proposals from Memorial that are in preparation for the first AIF competition. He advised that the University has developed a strategy to maximize success in the upcoming competition. The deadline for submissions of the first round of funding is 28 September 2001. Dr. Loomis pointed out the major benefits of the AIF to the University as well to the Province.

Dr. Loomis requested Board members to let him know if they should have any specific interests for proposals in their particular area of the province.

The Chair thanked Dr. Loomis for his very informative presentation and he left the meeting.

13. MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY RECREATION COMPLEX PROPOSAL

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Dr. Lilly Walker, Dean of Student Affairs and Services, Mr. Kirk Wiseman, President of the Memorial University Students' Union (MUNSU), Ms. Allison North, Newfoundland and Labrador Coordinator, Canadian Federation of Students, and Mr. Liam Walsh, Newfoundland and Labrador Chairperson, Canadian Federation of Students.

The Board invited these guests to debate, discuss and present their views concerning the proposal for the operation and administration of the new MUN Recreation Complex.

Dr. Walker led off the discussion by presenting the Administration's report, which proposed an approach to managing and financing all of the University's recreational facilities on the St. John's campus. The approach is based on the premise that the operation of the Field House should be financially self-sufficient with no subsidization from the University's budget. She outlined the challenges and goals for the recreation complex and elaborated on several recommendations for the consideration of the Board, including implementation of a mandatory recreation fee of \$40 per semester.

The Board received and reviewed copies of a report from MUNSU in which they outlined their position. The student leaders spoke to their report and expressed agreement with the principal objectives of the University's proposals. However, they expressed strong opposition to the mandatory fee and they emphasized adverse effects the fee would have on already financially overburdened students.

The Board received and reviewed copies of correspondence from the Graduate Students' Union pertaining to the proposed \$40 mandatory recreation fee. The GSU's position was that the fee should not be implemented without first conducting a comprehensive consultation process. They further requested that the Board table any motion to approve the fee until further consultation, research and discussion could occur between the administration and the University's student body.

Dr. Walker pointed out that extensive consultation had occurred and, as described in her report, it was essential to make a decision now so that the recreational programs can be developed by the time the Field House opens in January 2002.

The Board thanked Dr. Walker, Mr. Wiseman, Ms. North and Mr. Walsh for their informative presentations and for participating in the discussion. They left the meeting and the Board resumed its discussion of the issues presented.

It was the consensus of the Board that the new Board of the Recreation Complex should be committed to seeking ways and means of reducing the mandatory fee. A communication plan will be developed for immediate release to the students and the public at large.

After discussion, the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents considered the Memorial University Recreation Complex proposal and approved the following recommendations contained therein:

1. The "Memorial University Recreation Complex" be established, which includes the Field House; the Aquarena; the School of Human Kinetics and Recreation's pool, strength/conditioning centre, squash courts and gymnasium; the Splash facility; and outdoor playing fields.
2. The management and recognition of the Memorial University Recreation Complex be facilitated by changing the:
 - a) Name of Canada Games Park, Inc. to Memorial University Recreation Complex, Inc.
 - b) Board membership to include a minimum number of four students, five university representatives and four community representatives plus a Board Chair, with members and the Chair to be appointed by the Board of Regents.
 - c) Mandate to include the facilities and programs of the Memorial University Recreation Complex.
3. The operation of the Field House to be funded on a break-even basis from the proceeds of a mandatory recreation fee for all students attending classes on the St. John's campus (set at \$40 per semester, starting in January 2002), market-level fees for other users (set at a minimum of \$100 per semester, starting in January 2002), and other revenues, including admissions, rentals, services and sponsorships.

Mr. Dawe dissented.

MEETING ADJOURNED AND RECONVENED 16 AUGUST 2001

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m. and reconvened at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, 16 August 2001. Dr. Simpson, Mr. Butt, Mr. Dawe, and Mr. Kelly were absent.

14.ENROLMENT MATTERS

The President circulated a status report on student enrolments and courses for which students are registered both at the St. John's and Sir Wilfred Grenfell College campuses as well as distance education courses. The Board discussed issues related to course offerings, registrations and wait lists. Also discussed were issues surrounding the number of seats in the Medical School, recruitment issues, and the action being taken to increase registration.

15.AD HOC PENSIONS COMMITTEE

The Chair welcomed Ms. Glenda Willis, Manager of Benefits and Pensions, to the meeting. The Board received and reviewed copies of a status report prepared by Ms. Willis. The Chair advised that a discussion paper was prepared for review of the Ad Hoc Pensions Committee. He reported that after a final form is drafted the discussion paper will be distributed to the presidents of all organized groups representing university employees and retirees for their response.

ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.