

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

BOARD OF REGENTS

A meeting of the Board of Regents was held on September 8th, 2005, at the Hotel North in Happy Valley-Goose Bay at 2:00 pm.

PRESENT:

Dr. Georgina Hedges, Vice-Chair
Dr. John Crosbie, Chancellor
Dr. Axel Meisen, President and Vice-Chancellor
Dr. Eddy Campbell, Vice-President (Academic) and Pro Vice-Chancellor
Gail Aylward
Mary Broderick
Ruth Canning
Dr. Wynanne Downer
Deanne Fleet
Ann Marie Hann
Edward Kelly
Dr. Brendan Lewis
Earl Ludlow
Joan Pinsent
Dave Porter
Darlene Russell
Harvey Short
Eleanor Swanson
Eleanor Bennett, Secretary

APOLOGIES: Lorne Wheeler, Chair, Sam Chaulk, Pat Coish-Snow, Sharon Duggan, Leslie Galway, Dorothy George, Douglas Moores, and Roxana Vernescu.

ABSENCE OF CHAIR

Due to the absence of Lorne Wheeler, Chair of the Board of Regents, Dr. Georgina Hedges, Vice-Chair of the Board, acted as Chair.

PRESENT BY INVITATION: Kent Decker, Vice-President (Administration and Finance) and Gerard McDonald, Director of Human Resources.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Regents held on July 21, 2005, copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting, were approved by the Board.

2. CHAIR'S REPORT

1. Welcome to New Regents

Dr. Hedges congratulated and welcomed Ms. Canning, Ms. Fleet, Ms. Hann, and Ms. Swanson to their first meeting. They, along with Mr. Moores, who was unable to attend, had been elected by the MUN Alumni Association for a three-year term, effective September 1, 2005. Dr. Hedges also congratulated Mr. Ludlow on being re-elected to the Board for a further three years. She also welcomed Mr. Cranford, who will be appointed as the student representing Grenfell College Students Union. On behalf of the Board, she wished them a successful and rewarding term.

2. Get Well Wishes to Mr. Wheeler's Daughter

The Board had been advised of the illness of Mr. Wheeler's daughter and the Secretary was requested to send along the Regents best wishes to the family.

3. Resignation of Thom Duggan

The Board had received notification of the resignation of Thom Duggan, student appointment representing MUNSU since he had ceased to be a student. The Board was advised that MUNSU has been advised of his resignation and would be seeking a replacement in the near future.

4. Thanks to Dr. Meisen - Retreat Theme Material

The Board received a number of informational reports pertaining to Labrador and the retreat theme and thanked the President and his team for their efforts in the preparation and compilation of the material.

5. Schedule for 2006 Board Meetings

The Board received and reviewed a schedule of Board meetings for the 2006 calendar year. After discussion the following dates were approved:

Thursday, February 2nd, 2006

Thursday, March 23rd, 2006 (To be held in Corner Brook)

Tuesday, May 23rd, 2006 (To coincide with Spring Convocation)

Wednesday and Thursday, July 19th and 20th, 2006 (Board Retreat)

Thursday, September 14th, 2006

Thursday, October 19, 2006 (To coincide with Fall Convocation)

Thursday, December 14th, 2006

6. Restructuring of Board Committees

Dr. Hedges reminded new Regents to let the Secretary know of their preferences for Committees. She noted that because of the recent changes to the Board's membership, some restructuring of Committees

would be necessary.

7. Note of Thanks from Dr. Hedges re her Father's passing

Dr. Hedges circulated a note of thanks for the expressions of sympathy she had received from Regents on the recent passing of her father.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. Activity Report

Dr. Meisen reported on a number of meetings he had attended since the last meeting.

July 22nd He attended various meetings at SWGC and toured the site of the Long Term Care Facility.

July 25th - 30th He met with the following Municipal leaders where he provided a general overview of what is happening at the University:

Mayor Keith Shears, Rocky Harbour
Deputy Mayor Scott Hutchings, Cow Head
Mayor Stella Mailman, Port au Choix
Mayor Darrell O'Brien, L'Anse au Loup

He elaborated on his visit to the archeological dig near Port aux Choix.

He visited the Bonne Bay Marine Station.

Aug. 13th He gave a presentation on the reunion banquet dinner for the graduating class of 1955.

Aug. 14th He gave a welcome address at the International Symposium on Novel Aromatics, a conference attended by a large number of eminent scientists.

Aug. 31st He attended a dinner meeting with the Association of Atlantic Universities and Council of Atlantic Ministers of Education and Training.

Sept. 2nd He and Mr. Wheeler met with Ms. Pam Walsh, President of the CNA and Ms. Moya Cahill, Chair of the Board, CNA.

He attended the first graduating class of the Diploma in Police Studies Program and addressed the graduating class at a special dinner at City Hall.

Sept. 4th-6th He attended the Alumni Orientation BBQ, as well as other functions related to Orientation 2005.

Sept. 6th He attended an ACOA announcement with Minister Joseph McGuire, where the Minister announced an investment of \$1.3 million for three initiatives at the P.J. Gardiner in the Faculty of Business Administration.

2. Infrastructure Financing Initiative Update

The Board received and reviewed an update on the Infrastructure Financing Strategy. The Board was reminded that at its July 21st 2005 meeting they were informed that the Infrastructure Financing document had been forwarded to the Provincial Government.

Dr. Meisen reported that on August 9th, he, along with Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Decker, attended a meeting with Ministers Hedderson and Sullivan to discuss the strategy. Following this meeting, he wrote the Ministers to summarize the points that had been discussed, a copy of which was circulated with the material. The Board was advised that a response has not as yet been received from Government.

3. Feasibility Study for Capital Campaign Update

The Board received and reviewed an update on the Capital Campaign planning. The Board was advised at its July 21st meeting that Ketchum Canada Inc. (KCI) had been retained to conduct a feasibility study for a new major fundraising campaign. Their report will advise on competitive positioning, potential supports and volunteers, the feasibility of the campaign goal, and the readiness of the external community and the university itself for the campaign. Between now and the end 2005, KCI will review campaign priorities and will conduct interviews with internal and external stakeholders, including some members of the Board.

The Board was advised that the final report of KCI is due by the end of January 2006 and will subsequently be provided to the Board.

4. Ivany Report on SWGC Organizational Review

The Board briefly discussed the Report of a Commission to Review the Reporting Structure for Sir Wilfred Grenfell College and a copy a number of news releases both from the University and from the *Western Star* commenting on the Ivany Report.

Dr. Meisen advised the Board that he had written the Premier, the Minister of Education, the Minister of Justice requesting a meeting with them to ensure that they had full knowledge of the facts, including the way in which SWGC presently functions within Memorial University.

Dr. Meisen advised that he subsequently met with Minister Marshall

regarding SWGC and they had a comprehensive discussion of the issues, including the President's growth oriented strategy for SWGC. Furthermore, Dr. Meisen stressed that the Ivany Report is not University policy but will undergo a full review, with input from the SWGC community.

Regents from Corner Brook informed the Board of a number of concerns that had come to their attention from people in the area and the College.

Dr. Meisen said that all of this information has been taken under advisement. There will be an open meeting in Corner Brook on September 19th to engage the SWGC community in a discussion of the Report and hear their further comments.

It was agreed that the Board would convene a special meeting, sometime after the September 19th open meeting in Corner Brook, to fully inform the Board and to discuss and debate the issues. It is anticipated that a set of recommendations regarding SWGC governance and related matters will be made to the Board at its October 20th meeting.

After a discussion the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents convene a special meeting, following the September 19th open meeting in Corner Brook, to fully inform, discuss and debate issues arising from the Ivany Report and any issues arising from the meeting in Corner Brook on September 19th. A set of recommendations from the Ivany Report will be made to the Board at its October 20th meeting.

5. Registration Progress Report - Fall Semester 2005

The Board received and reviewed a registration progress report of the Fall semester 2005. The Board was advised that there is an overall increase in course registrations of 0.2%. The St. John's campus shows a decrease of 0.6%, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College shows an increase of 5.5% and Distance Education shows an increase of 2.6%. Dr. Meisen commented that the revenue projections are as planned.

6. Employee Assistance Program Report

The Board received and reviewed background information pertaining to the review of the contract for the provision of Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Services. The Board was advised that the contract with the current service provider, FGI, will expire on September 30th 2005. A decision was made to issue a Request for Proposals process because of service delivery problems with FGI and the view that the marketplace had become more competitive. The Board was advised that Warren Shepell

was chosen as the provider that was best able to supply a full range of EAP services to the University community.

7. Appointments to the Board of Directors - MUNBG

The Board received and reviewed background information pertaining to a recommendation for the appointment of Robert Bishop, C.A. to the Board of Directors of the MUN Botanical Garden, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Peter Mooney.

After discussion, the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents appoint Robert Bishop, C.A. to the Board of Directors of the MUN Botanical Garden replacing Peter Mooney, who had decided to resign, for the period commencing September 1, 2005 and ending October 31, 2008.

8. Auditor General Review Update

The Board received and reviewed background information pertaining to the review of the University by the Auditor General. The Board was reminded that at its meeting on February 2nd, 2005 it was advised that the Auditor General would be conducting a legislative review of the University. The scope of the audit was set forth at that time. Dr. Meisen reported that the University has not as yet received any details of the review, but would bring it to the Board's attention when received.

9. Update on Legal Matters (Wanda Young Case)

The Board was reminded of the availability at each meeting of the binder containing a synopsis of the status on all outstanding legal matters involving the University. The Board also received and reviewed an interim report on the Wanda Young case, which was prepared by the University's solicitor.

4. FINANCE MATTERS

Mr. Short, Chair of the Finance Committee, presented the following items for the consideration of the Board:

1. Harlow Campus Audited Financial Statements

The Board received and reviewed background information pertaining to the Harlow Campus Annual Audited Financial Statements and Scholarship and 25th Anniversary Trust Funds for the fiscal year ended March 31st, 2005.

The Board was advised that for the fiscal year 2005/06 a Financial Oversight Committee reviewed each monthly financial statement by the 10th of the following month. This review ensures the budget is monitored and any problems are identified very early.

2. Asset Valuation Methodology for the Actuarial Valuation of the MUN Pension Plan

The Board received and reviewed background information pertaining to the asset valuation methodology for the actuarial valuation of the Memorial University Pension Plan as at March 31st, 2005, and solvency funding exemption under the *Pension Benefits Act (PBA)*, 1997.

Mr. Decker and Mr. McDonald provided the Board with further background information. The Board was advised that the University Pensions Committee met on August 18th, 2005 and considered the advantages of asset smoothing and concluded that they outweigh those of a market approach.

Regarding solvency funding, the Committee was of the view that the solvency funding regulations of the PBA were not as applicable to the University's Plan as they might be for private enterprises operating, which may discontinue their operations. The Board was advised that the Committee also recognized the inherent value of the government guarantee provided in the *Memorial University Pensions Act*.

The exemption from the solvency provisions of the PBA was also supported by the Administration due to the remoteness of the possibility that the University will cease operations.

The position of the University administration was that expert advice had to be sought regarding the smoothing versus market value method of valuing the Plan's assets. Based on this advice, it was their view that the smoothing method offered was more preferable to using market values. A review of the practices used by other, similar plans supported this view.

Special payments in the order of \$7million will be required under the going concern assumption and funding of these special payments will be discussed with the Provincial Government with the objective of having additional funding included in our budget until the next actuarial valuation is completed.

After discussion, and on the recommendation of the University Pensions Committee, the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approve the recommendation that:

1. Asset smoothing continue to be used for the valuation of the Memorial University Pension Plan, as at March 31st, 2005 and that the University liquidate the going concern unfunded liability, calculated on this basis, in accordance with the requirements of the *Pension Benefits Act*, 1997; and
2. Government be requested to permanently exempt the Plan from the solvency funding provision of the *Pension Benefits Act*, 1997 and Regulations.

3. Corner Brook Civic Centre (Pepsi Centre) Leasing Proposal Update

The Board received and reviewed background information pertaining to the leasing proposal for the Corner Brook Civic Centre (Pepsi Centre) and a copy of the presentation made to the City of Corner Brook on August 23rd.

The Board was reminded that at its meeting on July 21st, it authorized the University Administration to proceed to the next level of negotiations with the City of Corner Brook for the management of the Pepsi Centre on a long-term basis, should the Sir Wilfred Grenfell College submission be selected as one of the finalists.

The Board was advised that two proposals had been short listed by the Corner Brook City Council, one from the University and one from a private corporation outside the Province. Council requested both parties to provide a presentation explaining their submissions. On August 23rd, Dr. John Ashton, Principal, SWGC, presented to City Council and administrative staff. Dr. Ashton was supported by Brian Colbourne, Director, Financial and Administrative Services, Dennis Waterman, Director of Administration and Finance, SWGC, Anne Richardson, General Manager, Memorial University Recreation Complex, Drs. Brendan Lewis and Wynne Downer, both Board of Regents' members. The Board was advised that City Council will assess both presentations through a Committee of Councillors and administrative staff early in September with a decision expected by mid-September. Detailed negotiations will then commence which will entail a time frame beyond the election of a new Council later in September.

5. CAMPUS PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

Mr. Kelly, Chair of the Campus Planning and Development Committee, presented the following items for the consideration of the Board:

1. Long Term Care Facility - SWGC

The Board received and reviewed background information pertaining to the construction of a Long Term Facility(LTCF) on the campus of Sir Wilfred Grenfell College.

The Board was reminded that at its July 21st meeting it granted authority to the Campus Planning and Development Committee to convene a meeting in Corner Brook to address the Memorandum of Understanding and other aspects of the facility to be constructed on the campus of SWGC. The Board received and reviewed the minutes of that meeting, which was held on August 5th. Arising from that meeting, Dr. Meisen agreed to oversee the preparation of a briefing paper on all aspects of the LTCF project, including the transfer of land issue.

The Board was advised that a briefing note and proposal for a Research/Teaching Centre was prepared and sent to the Deputy Minister of Health and Community Services.

Dr. Meisen reported that it is essential that the issues of research opportunities, transfer of property, and governance be addressed. In particular, the matter of liability coverage for the project site required urgent action.

After a discussion, the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents support the University's position regarding the proposal for a Research/Teaching Centre at the proposed Long Term Care Facility to be constructed on the campus of Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, and that the outstanding issues of property transfer, governance and liability associated with the Facility be addressed.

2. Naming of Board Room in the Inco Innovation Centre

The Board received and reviewed background information pertaining to a recommendation that the principal Boardroom in the Inco Innovation Centre be named in honour of Dr. Beatrice Watts. Dr Watts was a distinguished scholar, teacher, educational administrator and community leader in Labrador. She worked all her professional life to preserve and restore the Inuktitut language of the Inuit. She was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree by Memorial in 1992 in recognition of her many accomplishments and contributions. Dr. Watts passed away in April 2004.

The Board was advised that this recommendation is in accordance with the University's Naming Opportunities Policy.

After discussion, the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approve the recommendation that the Boardroom (IIC2014) in the Inco Innovation Centre

be named the Beatrice Watts Boardroom.

3. Transfer of GEO Centre to Memorial

The Board received and reviewed a report of the Johnson GEO Centre Evaluation of Offer to Transfer to Memorial University, which was prepared by the Evaluation Committee. The Board was reminded that at its July 21st, 2004 meeting, it approved the establishment of an ad hoc committee to examine the possibility of the University taking over the Johnson GEO Centre and establishing it as a Separately Incorporated Entity.

After discussion, the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents refer the report of the Evaluation of the Offer to Transfer the Johnson GEO Centre to Memorial University to the Campus Planning and Development and Finance Committees for review at their October meetings.

4. Update on Capital Projects

The Board received and reviewed background information pertaining to the following Capital Projects that are currently underway or being planned at the University:

St. John's Campus

- Energy Master Plan
- Master Plan Update and Traffic and Parking Study
- Faculty of Arts Facilities Plan

Marine Institute

- Holyrood Marine Base

Sir Wilfred Grenfell College

- Academic Building Expansion Facilities Plan
- Long Term Care Facility
- Corner Brook Curling Club Facility
- Master Plan Update
- Pepsi Centre

6. LABOUR RELATIONS MATTERS

The Board received and reviewed an update on the progress of Collective Bargaining with the Memorial University of Newfoundland Faculty

Association (MUNFA).

The Board received and reviewed a report on the status of negotiations between Chartwells and their union.

7. APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING

The Board received and reviewed a report of the Appointments Committee meeting held on September 8th, 2005 which was presented by Ms. Aylward, Chair of the Committee, along with an addendum, all of which was approved by the Board.

Specific approval was given to the appointment of Christine Burke as Director of Housing, Food and Conference Services and the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents approve the appointment of Christine Burke as Director of Housing, Food and Conference Services in the Department of Student Affairs and Services, effective October 6, 2005.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.