

**MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND**

**BOARD OF REGENTS**

A meeting of the Board of Regents was held on Thursday September 11, 2003 in the Board Room of the University at 2:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

Chris Decker, Chair  
Dr. Georgina Hedges, Vice-Chair  
Dr. John Crosbie, Chancellor  
Dr. Axel Meisen, President and Vice-Chancellor  
Gail Aylward  
Hayward Blake  
Leigh Borden  
Lisa Browne  
Calvin Butt  
Sam Chaulk  
Leslie Galway  
Dorothy George  
Ed Kelly  
Dr. Brendan Lewis  
Joan Pinsent  
David Porter  
Andrea Quinlan  
Harvey Short  
Kathryn Small  
Lorelei Stanley-Newton  
Eleanor Bennett, Secretary

**APOLOGIES:** Dr. Evan Simpson, Sharon Duggan, Nancy Kelly, Earl Ludlow, Darlene Russell and Susan Wood.

**PRESENT BY INVITATION:** Glenn Collins, Acting Vice-President (Administration and Finance) and Dr. Michael Collins, Associate Vice-President (Academic).

**1. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings of the Board of Regents, held July 23, 24, 25, 2003, copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting, were approved by the Board.

**2. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Condolences to the Winter Family

The Board was advised of the death of Dr. Gordon A. Winter, former Chair and member of the Board of Regents. The following resolution,

which will be forwarded to the Winter family, was passed:

**RESOLVED THAT** the Regents of Memorial University of Newfoundland note with sorrow the death of the Honourable Dr. Gordon Arnaud Winter and extend their sincere condolences to Mrs. Winter and the members of her family;

**AND THAT** the Board acknowledge with gratitude the great contribution Dr. Winter made to the University during his 24 years of service as a Regent, from 1950 to 1974, and in particular during his six years as Chairman of the Board, between 1968 and 1974.

### **3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

#### **1. Mastercard Solicitation**

The President responded to concerns expressed by several members of the Board who had received phone calls from MBNA aggressively soliciting for a credit card on behalf of the MUN Alumni Association. The President apologized for this inconvenience and assured the Board that action has been taken to avoid any recurrence of this problem.

#### **2. Ongoing Strategic Objective**

The President noted that in an effort to position the University appropriately for the upcoming Provincial election, he had invited members of the House of Assembly to the University to provide them with an overview and understanding of the University. He reported that Mr. Jack Harris, Leader of the NDP, had visited the University recently and he hoped that an invitation extended to Mr. Danny Williams, Leader of the Opposition, would also be accepted in the near future.

#### **3. Alumni Affairs and Development**

The President advised that the contract with the consultants engaged to manage the Department of Alumni Affairs and Development would be completed within the next three months. He advised that he would be initiating a search for a new director following the completion of the contract with the consultants.

#### **4. Searches**

The President advised that the Search for the Vice-President (Administration and Finance) was nearing completion and the committee has arrived at a short list of three candidates. He had hoped to identify a candidate and subsequently make the recommendation to the Board within the next 2 - 3 weeks. He advised the Board that if anyone wished to meet the candidate, arrangements could be made to do so, keeping in mind that this search is a confidential one.

He advised that the Search for the Vice-President (Academic) is just beginning. He noted that this search is an open one and when a short list is reached, the candidates will be invited to the campus for a public presentation. Regents will be provided with an opportunity to meet these candidates.

#### 5. Centre for Regional Development Studies

The President advised of a forthcoming Senate recommendation to establish a centre for Regional Development Studies, which may include components related to tourism. Further details are expected to be provided at the October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### 6. Round II of AIF Funding

The Board received and reviewed background information pertaining to five Memorial-led projects which were selected for funding under Round II of the Atlantic Innovation Fund (AIF). Announcement were made on September 10 and 11, 2003 by the Honourable Gerry Byrne, Minister of State for ACOA and Newfoundland and Labrador's representative in the federal cabinet. The President reviewed this information with the Board noting that Memorial received a total of \$21.6 million on Round II of the AIF. He noted that this is by far the largest award to any university in Atlantic Canada.

The President also confirmed (as part of the \$21.6 million) \$13.1 million towards the INCO Innovation Centre, including the \$4.4 million needed to undertake conversion of the Thomson Student Centre.

#### 7. Student Enrollment Update

The Board received and reviewed a report of student enrollments and course registrations for the Fall Semester 2003. They were advised that the overall student enrollment at Memorial as of the start of the Fall 2003 semester is 17,177, representing an increase of almost 4% over the same time last year. The largest increase is in graduate students where there are in excess of 2,000 students enrolled, representing a 9.3% increase over last year. Sir Wilfred Grenfell College enrollments have increased 8.8% and undergraduate enrollments at the St. John's campus have increased by 2.6%.

The President reviewed the figures showing undergraduate course registrations by subject area for the Fall semester 2003 compared with those of last year. Overall there is an increase in registrations from Fall semester 2002 of 2.5%, distributed as 2.6% increase at the St. John's campus, a 9.7% increase at Sir Wilfred Grenfell, and a 6.8% decrease for distance education.

The President attributed the increase in enrollment and registration to successful recruitment efforts and increased recognition of the university's quality.

## 8. Student Appointments to the Board of Regents

The Board received and reviewed background information pertaining to the nomination of two students to the Board of Regents and a recommendation for a change to the current practice of nominating students to the Board.

The names of two students, Ms. Allison North and Ms. Roxana Vernescu, were put forward for appointment to the Board of Regents. In order to provide continuity in the student appointments, it was recommended that the terms be staggered, with Ms. North's term being for one year, and Ms. Vernescu's for two.

The President reviewed the past Board practice of receiving two names for one student position on the Board. He advised that following careful consideration and consultations, it was advisable to change this practice and to document a process for identifying student nominees.

After discussion, the following resolution was passed:

### **RESOLVED:**

That the Board of Regents recommend to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council that Ms. Allison North and Ms. Roxana Vernescu be appointed to the student positions on the Board of Regents for a term of one year, and two years, respectively.

That the Board of Regents approve a revised practice for filling student positions on the Board of Regents by receiving a minimum of one nomination per position, and that a procedure for nominating student appointments to the Board be drafted and presented to the December 11, 2003 meeting of the Board for consideration.

Ms. Borden abstained from voting on this matter.

## 9. Appointment to the Board of Directors - CCFI

The Board received and reviewed a recommendation for the appointment to the Board of Directors of the Canadian Centre for Fisheries Innovation (CCFI), which was inadvertently omitted from the list of appointments to CCFI Board at the July meeting.

After discussion, the following resolution was passed:

### **RESOLVED:**

That the Board of Regents approve the appointment of Mr. Gerard Chidley to the Board of Directors of the Canadian Centre for Fisheries Innovation for the period commencing

June 1, 2003 and ending May 31, 2005.

10. Appointments to the Board of Directors - MUN Botanical Garden

The Board received and reviewed a recommendation for appointments to the Board of Directors of the MUN Botanical Garden and was advised of the retirement of several of the Directors.

After discussion, the following resolution was passed:

**RESOLVED:**

That the Board of Regents approve the following appointments to the Board of Directors of the MUN Botanical Garden, effective immediately and ending October 30, 2004:

Ms. Leslie Grattan  
Mr. Neil Dawe  
Ms. Dell Texmo  
Mr. Peter Mooney  
Ms. Charlotte Jewczyk

That the Board of Regents approve the following retirements from the Board of Directors of the MUN Botanical Garden:

Dr. Maureen Hannaford  
Ms. Margie Winter  
Dr. Cindy Whitman  
Mr. Mike Donovan

11. Appointment to the Board of Directors - Newfoundland Quarterly

The Board received and reviewed a recommendation for the appointment to the Board of Directors of the Newfoundland Quarterly Foundation.

After discussion the following resolution was passed:

**RESOLVED:**

That the Board of Regents approved the appointment of Mr. David Blackwood to the Board of Directors of the Newfoundland Quarterly Foundation Inc. for the period commencing September 11, 2003 and ending December 31, 2004.

12. Appointment to the Board of Directors of Genesis Group Inc.

The Board received and reviewed a recommendation for the appointment of Mr. Glen Samson and the resignation of Mr. Robert Drummond to the

Board of Directors of Genesis Group Inc. After discussion, the following resolution was passed:

**RESOLVED:**

That the Board of Regents approve the appointment of Mr. Glen Samson to the Board of Directors of the Genesis Group Inc. for the period commencing September 11, 2003 and ending June 30, 2004, replacing Mr. Robert Drummond, who resigned.

**4. CAMPUS PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

A verbal report of the Campus Planning and Development Committee meeting held on September 11, 2003, was presented by Mr. Kelly, Chair of the Committee.

The Board received and reviewed a report on the following capital projects currently underway or being planned:

- (a) INCO Innovation Centre
- (b) Residence Expansion Feasibility Study - St. John's Campus
- (c) Sir Wilfred Grenfell College Exhibition Centre
- (d) Queen Elizabeth II Library Renovations - Functional Space Planning Study

**Functional Space Planning Study for a new Sciences Research Building and a renovated Science Building**

The Board was advised that five proposals had been received from consultants for this study, which will develop a space program for a new Sciences Research Building and proposed renovations to the existing Science Building. These submissions were evaluated by a Selection Advisory Committee and a report of the committee's findings received and reviewed by the Campus Planning and Development Committee.

After discussion, and on the recommendation of the Campus Planning and Development committee, the following resolution was passed:

**RESOLVED:**

That the Board of Regents approve the appointment of the firm of AMEC E & C Services Ltd. to provide a Functional Space Planning Study for a new Sciences Research Building and a renovated Science Building.

**5. APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

A report of the Appointments Committee meeting held on September 3, 2003, along with an addendum, was presented by Ms. Aylward, Chair of the Committee, and approved by the Board.

## **6. FINANCE MATTERS**

### Food Services Contract

The Board was reminded that at its meeting on July 24, 2003 it delegated authority to the Finance Committee to approve the signing of the Food Services Contract following review of the final document by the University's lawyers. Mr. Short, Chair of the Committee, advised that a meeting of the Finance Committee was held on August 29, 2003 where they were informed that the lawyers completed their review of the document and advised that it was ready for signing. In view of this, the Finance Committee approved the signing of the food services contract with Chartwells College and University Dining Services.

## **7. PENSIONS MATTER**

### Policy Governing Participation of Contractual Employees in the MUN Pension Plan

The Board received and reviewed background information pertaining to a recommendation from the University Pensions Committee for a change in the Policy Governing Participation of Contractual Employees in the MUN Pension Plan.

The Board was reminded that in May 2002, in response to recommendations from the University Pensions Committee for amendments to the above-mentioned policy, it referred this matter back to the University Pensions Committee for further review and exploration of other alternatives.

The policy governing the plan participation by contractual employees was last amended in December 1987. It provided employees, who are appointed to contractual positions of at least six months continuous employment and at least 20 hours per week, with a one-time, irrevocable option to join the Pension Plan. The amendment was subsequently reflected in the collective agreements with the CUPE and NAPE locals. This policy has been reviewed further by the University Pensions Committee in the context of the current pension environment, potential costs and the intent of the *Pension Benefits Act, 1997*. Recent legal advice indicates that the one-time, irrevocable option is contrary to the intent of the *Act* for certain contractual employees.

The Board was advised that the maximum incremental cost related to employer matching contributions on a go-forward basis is approximately \$400,000, assuming a 100% take-up rate by the employees affected. Based on a survey of these employees, it was noted that not all will decide to join the plan and the additional costs are estimated to total \$120,000 (\$50,000 to be charged to the university's core operating budget and \$70,000 to be charged to the Faculty of Medicine and external grants). Costs in this fiscal year will be one-half these amounts, and it is expected that the University's costs in future years will be

covered by the Government grant. The University will make requests to this effect.

The University administration recommended to the Finance Committee that the changes to the policy be approved. In the absence of a meeting of the Finance Committee, this matter was referred directly to the Board for its consideration.

After discussion, the following resolution was passed:

**RESOLVED:**

That the Board of Regents approve the following change in the "Policy Governing Participation of Contractual Employees in the Memorial University Pension Plan":

1. That existing contractual employees who elected not to participate in the Memorial University Pension Plan be given one further limited-time option (60 calendar days) to join the Plan, effective the date of such approval by the Board of Regents;
2. That, on a prospective basis, the policy governing Pension Plan participation of contractual employees be amended to introduce mandatory Pension Plan participation on the earlier of (i) the effective date of appointment to a contractual position of a least six months duration and at least 20 hours per week or (ii) the effective date of completion of six months of continuous employment of at least 20 hours per week; and,
3. That existing collective agreement provisions for members of CUPE and NAPE continue to be adhered to until such time as contract changes are negotiated.

**8. AD HOC BENEFITS COMMITTEE FINAL REPORT**

The Board received and reviewed the final report of the Ad Hoc Benefits Committee. In the absence of Ms. Duggan, Chair of the Committee, the report was presented by Mr. Decker, and accepted by the Board. The Board was advised that this committee has now concluded its formal review of the University's group benefits plan, and the report will be available for reference in the event funding or other factors require a more detailed consideration of the various issues and options identified by the Ad Hoc Committee in its review.

**9. SENATE MATTER**

The Board received and reviewed a recommendation from Senate that

the title of Professor Emeritus be awarded to Professor Tran T. Gien, who is a scholar of outstanding note and a retired member of the Department of Physics and Physical Oceanography in the Faculty of Science.

After discussion, the following resolution was passed:

**RESOLVED:**

That the Board of Regents approved the recommendation of Senate that the title of Professor Emeritus be awarded to Professor Tran T. Gien.

**10. SIE COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Dr. Hedges, Chair of the SIE Committee, reported on meetings held with each SIE (with the exception of C-CORE) and Brian Colbourne, Director of Financial and Administrative Services, and Mr. Collins. She hoped to schedule an SIE committee prior to the next meeting of the Board of Regents to review the comments and suggestions received from each SIE with respect to the draft management agreement and the draft corporate governance checklist. She thanked Mr. Collins, Mr. Colbourne and Ms. Maureen Ryan, legal counsel for the committee, for their time and efforts in this regard.

**11. PRESENTATION BY DEANS AND DIRECTORS**

The Chair noted that this is the second in a series of presentations provided to the Board of Regents by the academic Deans and Directors on important issues related to their respective areas.

The Board welcomed to the meeting Dr. Sheldon Birnie-Lefcovitch, Director of the School of Social Work, Dr. Alice Collins, Dean of the Faculty of Education, Dr. Tom Gordon, Director of the School of Music, and Dr. Gary Gorman, Dean of the Faculty of Business Administration. They provided a power-point presentation entitled "The Destiny of Only." Following the presentation and a question and answer session the Board thanked the Deans and Directors for their very informative presentation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.