

**MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND**

**BOARD OF REGENTS**

A meeting of the Board of Regents was held on Thursday, September 9, 2004 in the Board Room of the University at 2:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

Dr. Georgina Hedges, Vice-Chair  
Dr. Axel Meisen, President and Vice-Chancellor  
Dr. Eddy Campbell, Vice-President (Academic)  
Gail Aylward  
Hayward Blake  
Lisa Browne  
Calvin Butt  
Sam Chaulk  
Sharon Duggan  
Leslie Galway  
Ed Kelly  
Allison North  
Joan Pinsent  
Darlene Russell  
Roxana Vernescu  
Eleanor Bennett, Secretary

**APOLOGIES:** Dr. John Crosbie, Dorothy George, Nancy Kelly, Dr. Brendan Lewis, Earl Ludlow, Dave Porter, Andrea Quinlan, and Harvey Short.

**ABSENCE OF A CHAIR**

Due to the vacancy in the office of the Chair of the Board of Regents, Dr. Georgina Hedges, Vice-Chair of the Board, acted as Chair.

**PRESENT BY INVITATION:** Mr. Kent Decker, Vice-President (Administration and Finance).

**1. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Board of Regents meeting/retreat held July 21 - 23, 2004, copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting, were approved by the Board.

**1. Resolution Regarding Removal of the Tuition Freeze**

At the July 21-23, 2004 Board meeting, a resolution was passed that a plan be prepared for Government to remove the tuition freeze. This

resolution resulted following a detailed discussion surrounding the retreat theme "Financing The University". Ms. North, who was unable to attend the July meeting, circulated several articles from the CAUT Education Review and another from the Canadian Medical Association Journal concerning the effects of rising tuition fees and the affordability of post-secondary education in Canada. She requested that Regents review the material she had circulated and consider the other side of the argument for increasing tuition fees and removing the freeze. She urged the Board to rescind the motion at the next meeting of the Board.

Dr. Hedges advised Ms. North that her comments were noted and that the matter would be taken under advisement.

## **2. ACTING CHAIR'S REPORT**

### **1. Expiration of Ms. North's Term**

Dr. Hedges noted that this would be the last Board meeting for Ms. North whose term expires October 14, 2004. On behalf of the Board, Dr. Hedges thanked Ms. North for her contribution to the Board during her term and wished her well in all her future endeavours.

### **2. Follow-up to July Meeting/Retreat**

Dr. Hedges thanked the senior executive for their excellent presentations and detailed discussions which made for a successful and rewarding set of meetings in Grand Falls-Windsor. She noted that the dinner with the community on July 23<sup>rd</sup> was extremely beneficial given the excellent attendance. The special guests at the dinner were Major Vyvyan Harmsworth and Mrs. Alexandra Harmsworth.

Dr. Hedges also thanked Dr. Meisen for his superb presentation on the University which he gave at the dinner. She noted that the visit to the Council Chambers hosted by Mayor Walwin Blackmore and some of the Councillors was very much appreciated and presented an opportunity for Regents to meet the Mayor and Council in their Chambers. She also noted the Regents invitation to attend a reception at the historical Grand Falls House which was hosted by Mr. Roger Pike from Abitibi Consolidated.

### **3. Vacancies on the Board**

Dr. Hedges noted that she had written Minister Ottenheimer to remind him of the four Lieutenant-Governor in Council vacancies on the Board as well as the one MUN Alumni Association vacancy.

### **4. Ms. Russell appointed to Finance Committee**

Dr. Hedges noted that Ms. Russell had agreed to serve as a member of the Finance Committee.

#### 5. Change in Date of February Meeting

The Board was advised that the date of the February meeting of the Board of Regents to be held in Corner Brook would be changed from Thursday, February 3, 2005 to Wednesday, February 2, 2005.

### **3. WHITE PAPER ON POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION**

The Board received and reviewed background information pertaining to the White Paper on Post-Secondary Education. The Board was advised that Dr. Meisen had met with the Commissioner on August 5, 2004 and in advance of that meeting, the Commissioner provided correspondence including a "Statement of Key Trends and Indicators". At the meeting on August 5<sup>th</sup>, the President provided the Commissioner with comments on the statement. He advised that on August 11<sup>th</sup> Dr. Michael Collins attended a consultation meeting between the Commissioner and staff members, and the Executive of the Marine Institute. The Commission distributed "Questions for Consultation Process" at that meeting. An Executive Summary of the Senior Executive Committee's report to the Commission was presented to the Board for their information. Dr. Meisen noted that Senate as well as representatives of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) will be invited to meet with the Commission.

With respect to the invitation for the Board of Regents to meet with the Commission, Dr. Hedges recommended that the Board establish an ad hoc committee comprising of 5 or 6 Regents to meet with the Commission. She requested that those interested in serving on this committee advise the Secretary of their willingness to do so. Further, she encouraged Regents to submit their comments and concerns to the Ad Hoc Committee and reminded them that the deadline for the Board's submission to the Commission is October 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **4. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

#### 1. July Board Meeting in Grand Falls-Windsor

The President thanked Dr. Hedges for her assistance with the meetings and the dinner in Grand Falls-Windsor, especially with respect to her invaluable contacts with the members in the region.

#### 2. Activity Report

Dr. Meisen advised the Board of a number of presentations, meetings and special events he had been involved with since the last meeting.

Presentations:

- Aug. 13 Gave a presentation to a representative from General Electric (USA), Minister Elizabeth Marshall, and representatives from Grand Falls-Windsor to attract a General Electric subsidiary to the region.
- Aug. 30 Gave a presentation to the new Chinese student cohort enrolled at Memorial in the Master's of Applied Science in Computer Engineering Program.
- Sept. 5/6 Provided orientation presentations to the students and their parents.
- Sept. 7 Gave an orientation presentation to new faculty.

Meetings:

- Aug. 5 Met with Nunavut's Minister of Environment, Minister Akesuk, and other Nunavut representatives.
- Aug. 11 Met with Mr. Scott Hand, Chairman and CEO of INCO, and also with Mr. Phil du Toit and Mr. Rick Gill regarding the Inco Innovation Centre.
- Aug. 12 Met with Minister Paul Shelley regarding the possible inception of a new tourism program, particularly at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, and ways to assist with promoting tourism in Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Aug. 23 Met with Mr. Paul Cellucci, United States Ambassador to Canada, at Government House.
- Aug. 24 Visited the Bonne Bay Marine Station with Dr. Campbell and also Cow Head to attend the Gros Morne Theatre Festival where theatre students from Sir Wilfred Grenfell College perform.
- Aug. 25 Met with Mr. Bill Lundrigan, Executive Director of the Greater Corner Brook Board of Trade and Dr. John Ashton, Principal of Sir Wilfred Grenfell College to discuss issues surrounding the University and the College.
- Sept. 2 Met with Mr. Ian Hardgrove, President of 3M Canada. The company awards fellowships in recognition of outstanding teaching. Memorial University faculty received three awards during the past few years.

### Special Events:

- Aug. 16      Memorial signed an agreement with Fisheries and Oceans Canada on Oil and Gas Environmental Research.
- Sept. 1      Attended a ceremony at Newfoundland's Merchant Navy Memorial for Merchant Navy Veterans Day.
- Sept. 1      Attended a staff appreciation BBQ organized by Mr. Kent Decker and his staff.
- Sept. 8      Attended the first investiture of the members of the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador at Government House. Eight of the nine recipients have a very close association with Memorial.

### 3. Update on Searches

Dr. Meisen reported on the search for the Director of Alumni Affairs and Development. He reported that Mr. Leslie O'Reilly's term as Director of the Marine Institute ends in June 2005 and advised that a search for his successor would be initiated in the near future.

### 4. Registration Summary Report for Fall 2004

A report on student enrollments and course registrations at the start of the Fall Semester 2004, prepared by the Registrar's Office, was circulated at the meeting and reviewed by the Board. Dr. Meisen elaborated further on the statistics provided and noted that overall the numbers were very good.

The Comparison of Enrollment, Fall 2002-2004, shows a grand total of 17,712 students, representing a 3.1% increase over the start of the semester in Fall 2004. The largest increase is in the number of graduate students, where there are over 2100 students enrolled, an 8.1% increase over last year. The undergraduate enrollment at the St. John's campus has increased by 2.8%, while Sir Wilfred Grenfell College has increased 1.7%

### 5. P.J. Gardiner Institute Revenue Pilot Report

The Board was reminded that at its meeting on May 27, 2003 it granted the P.J. Gardiner Institute for Enterprise and Entrepreneurship exemption from standard Human Resource and financial policies for a period of one year, effective June 2003. Dr. Meisen advised the Board that the administration had received a preliminary report on the Revenue Generation Pilot Project conducted by the Institute and will provide a detailed report to the Board at its October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

## 6. Appointments to CCMC

The Board was advised that the term of Mr. Paul Lacroix as a member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Centre for Marine Communications since August 1, 2001 expired on July 31, 2004. Dr. Meisen informed the Board that Mr. Lacroix's appointment had been renewed for a further term of four years, commencing August 1, 2004.

## **5. HARLOW CAMPUS MATTERS**

### 1. Informational Update

The Board received and reviewed background information pertaining to the Harlow Campus with respect to a revision to the Deed of Trust; the audited financial statements of the Harlow Campus, and information pertaining to utilization rates of the Harlow Campus. Further information will be provided at the October 21<sup>st</sup> or December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board.

### 2. Appointments to Harlow Campus Board of Trustees

The Board received and reviewed background information pertaining to recommendations for re-appointments to the Harlow Campus Trust.

After discussion the following resolution was passed:

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the Board of Regents approve the re-appointment of the following to the Harlow Campus Trust for a further period of three years, effective March 31, 2004:

Mr. Ken Archer  
Ms. Denise Barnett  
Ms. Beatrice Leigh  
Ms. Jayne Platt  
Ms. Diane Craft

The Board also confirmed the following expiry dates for the remaining Trustees:

<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Expiry Date</u>
Mr. Vincent Dunn	July 30, 2006
Prof. Michael Gibbons	January 13, 2007
Dr. Alan Perry	January 13, 2007
Mr. Michael Priestley	July 30, 2006
Hon. Edward Roberts	July 30, 2006

## **6. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on September 9, 2004 were presented by Ms. Pinsent, Vice-Chair of the Committee, and accepted by the Board. The following information was received and resolutions were passed with respect to items requiring specific approval of the Board:

### Item A - Bond Issue

The Board received and reviewed background information pertaining to a strategy to raise capital funding through a Bond Issue. The Board was reminded that at its meeting in July, it requested the Administration to develop a strategy that would lead to the issuance of Bonds as a means of obtaining significant funding for major capital projects. The Board was advised that the strategy will be designed to complement the submission that the University will make to Government as part of the process to develop a White Paper on Post Secondary Education.

### Item B - MUNSU Update

The Board received and reviewed an update regarding the financial issues outstanding between the Memorial University of Newfoundland Students' Union (MUNSU) and the Administration.

### Item C - Severance Pay Policy

The Board received and reviewed background information pertaining to a recommendation for a change to the University's Severance Pay Policy whereby newly hired non-bargaining unit employees of the University would no longer be eligible for this benefit. Existing employees would not be affected in any way, either in terms of their future entitlement or their right to continue to accumulate service for severance pay purposes.

The Board was advised the existing University policy provides for the payment of an allowance on the occasion of an employee's retirement, resignation, death, or termination by reason of disability, provided that the employee has 9 years of continuous service with Memorial. This benefit has been in existence since the 1970's when it was established within the provincial public sector generally. The original benefit was payable after 10 years of continuous service and applied in the case of retirement and death only, but has evolved since that time to include resignation and disability. Under this policy, an employee can receive up to a maximum of 20 weeks pay (i.e. 5 days for each year of service). All of the University's staff collective agreements contain the benefit; the benefit does not apply to faculty.

The University's administration has reviewed options for reducing the growth of liability for the benefit which, at March 31, 2004, is valued at \$14 million. This amount includes the liability for both bargaining and non-bargaining unit employees. The Board received and reviewed an analysis of the change to the policy for non-bargaining unit employees and it was pointed out that approximately \$1.7 million of severance payments would be avoided over the next 30 years.

After discussion, the following resolution was passed:

**RESOLVED:**

That the Board of Regents approve the elimination of severance pay for newly hired, non-bargaining unit employees, effective October 1, 2004. Further, this change in the severance pay policy will not apply to present employees in the non-bargaining unit who are currently eligible to receive this benefit.

Item D - Deletion of Position

The Board received and reviewed background information pertaining to a recommendation for the deletion of a permanent position in the Division of Distance Education and Learning Technologies.

After discussion, the following resolution was passed:

**RESOLVED:**

That the Board of Regents approve the deletion of the following permanent staff position in the Division of Distance Education and Learning Technologies (DELT), effective April 30, 2004:

DLT-052 - Associate Director (Special Projects).

Item E - Establishment of Position

The Board received and reviewed background information pertaining to a recommendation for the establishment of a permanent position in the Faculty of Arts.

After discussion, the following resolution was passed:

**RESOLVED:**

That the Board of Regents approve the establishment of the following permanent position in the Office of the Dean of the

Faculty of Arts:

ART-017 - Intermediate Clerk Stenographer

Item F - Creation of Position

The Board received and reviewed background information pertaining to a recommendation for the creation of a position in the Faculty of Medicine.

After discussion, the following resolution was passed:

**RESOLVED:**

That the Board of Regents approve the creation of the position of Associate Dean for Clinical Research (Medicine) in the Faculty of Medicine.

Item G - Renaming of Position

The Board received and reviewed background information pertaining to a recommendation for the renaming of a position in the Faculty of Medicine.

After discussion, the following resolution was passed:

**RESOLVED:**

That the Board of Regents approve a recommendation that the position of Assistant Dean for Research and Graduate Studies (Medicine) be renamed Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies (Medicine).

Report of Action Taken by Academic and Academic-Support Units to Achieve Balanced Budgets for the 2004-2005 Fiscal Year

A report of the action taken by academic and academic-support units to achieve balanced budgets for the 2004-2005 fiscal year, prepared by the Office of the Vice-President (Academic), was circulated for information at the meeting and discussed by the Board.

**7. LABOUR RELATIONS MATTER**

The Board received and reviewed background information concerning the efforts by the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) to unionize teaching assistants at Memorial University.

**8. CAMPUS PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the Campus Planning and Development Committee meeting held on September 9, 2004, were presented by Mr. Kelly, Chair of the Committee and accepted by the Board.

### 1. Capital Projects Update

The Board received and reviewed updates on the following Capital Projects:

- ▶ Inco Innovation Centre (Regents were provided with a tour of this facility following their regular meeting)
- ▶ Sciences Research Building - Functional Space Planning Study
- ▶ School of Music Expansion
- ▶ Energy Master Plan
- ▶ Aquarena Roof
- ▶ Main Dining Hall Renovations (Regents were provided with a tour of the Dining Hall following their regular meeting)

### 2. Conceptual Development of Area 17

The Board received and reviewed conceptual drawings of Area 17, the area between the Queen Elizabeth II Library, the Smallwood Centre, and the Inco Innovation Centre. The concept envisages an underground parking garage that would accommodate 185 spaces with a garden area on top of the garage. The Board was advised that the University is working with the Grand Concourse Authority to develop this concept.

### 3. Merger and Renaming of CORDS and PPRC

The Board received and reviewed background information pertaining to a recommendation for the merger and renaming of the Centre of Regional Development Studies (CORDS) and the Public Policy Research Centre (PPRC). The Board was advised that there are no financial implications arising out of the merger.

After discussion, the following resolution was passed:

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the Board of Regents approve the merger of the Centre of Regional Development Studies (CORDS) and the Public Policy Research Centre (PPRC). The Director of CORDS will assume the role of Director of the new centre and the Interim Director of PPRC will become Associate Director, Public Policy. The Director will report to the Vice-President (Academic) and the Vice-President (Research).

The Board further approved a recommendation that the new centre be named the Leslie Harris Centre of Regional Policy and Development.

## **9. APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

A report of action taken by the Appointments Committee at its meeting on September 9, 2004, along with an addendum, was presented by Ms. Aylward, Chair of the Committee, and approved by the Board.

The Board passed the following resolutions with respect to the items requiring specific approval of the Board:

### **RESOLVED:**

That the Board of Regents approve the following administrative appointments:

Dr. Michael Collins - His appointment as Associate Vice-President (Academic) be extended for a further three months, effective October 1, 2004, to allow for completion of a review.

Mr. Graham Mowbray - To be Executive Director of Atlantic Computational Excellence Network (ACEnet) in the Office of the Vice-President (Research) for a three-year term, effective October 4, 2004. This position will be funded through external sources provided to the ACEnet Project.

Dr. Dale Foster - To be Interim Director of Alumni Affairs and Development, for the period commencing September 1, 2004 and ending April 30, 2005, or sooner if a new Director is appointed.

## **10. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Board received the following correspondence:

1. Letter from Dr. J. K. Hiller thanking the Board for appointing him University Research Professor.
2. Note from Mrs. Hilda Morrow thanking the Board for the invitation for her and Mr. Morrow to the Board dinner in Grand Falls-Windsor.
3. Letter from Dr. Hedges to Leigh Borden on her resignation from the Board.
4. Letter from Dr. Hedges to Susan Wood on her resignation from the

Board.

5. Letter from Anne Budgell thanking the Board for her appointment to the MUN Botanical Garden Board.

**11. CIRCULATED FOR INFORMATION**

The Board received copies of the new "View Book for 2004-2005", an attractive brochure outlining detailed information about Memorial University, including Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, the Marine Institute and the Harlow Campus.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.