

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND  
SENATE

A special meeting of Senate was held on Tuesday, December 10, 2002, at 4:00 p.m. in Room E5004.

27. PRESENT

The President, Dr. E. Simpson, Dr. C. Loomis, Professor A. Fowler, Interim Dean A. Collins, Dr. S. Birnie-Lefcovitch, Dean D. Graham, Dean G. Gorman, Mr. G. Collins, Mr. R. Ellis, Dr. T. Gordon, Dr. L. Hensman, Dr. C. Higgs, Dean C. Jablonski, Dean R. Lucas, Mr. L. O'Reilly, Interim Dean M. Haddara, Dean L. Walker, Dr. R. Adamec, Dr. S. Algoo-Baksh, Dr. J. Ashton, Dr. D. Buell, Mr. C. Dennis, Dr. J. Evans, Dr. R. Gosine, Dr. J. Harris, Dr. M. Kara, Professor V. Kuester, Dr. D. McKay, Dr. M. Mulligan, Dr. F. Murrin, Dr. H. Pike, Dr. J. Quaicoe, Ms. D. Rehner, Dr. D. Rideout, Dr. W. Schipper, Dr. K. St. John, Dr. D. Treslan, Professor D. Walsh, Dr. B. Watson, Dr. P. Wilson, Dr. J. Wright, Dr. J. Wyse, Ms. L. Eddy, Ms. G. Bell, Mr. A. Kennedy, Mr. G. Salam.

28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Dr. M. Brosnan, Dr. V. Richardson, Ms. D. Whalen, Dr. F. Shahidi, Dr. D. Kimberley.

The President opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the last meeting of Senate for the year 2002. He noted the newly renovated boardroom and on behalf of Senate, expressed his appreciation to Facilities Management, the Faculty of Education and the ad hoc Senate Committee on E-5004/5005 for making this happen.

29. President's Report 2002 - "Vision, Action, Innovation"

At the request of the President and with the concurrence of Senate, it was agreed to change the order of the agenda and place a presentation of the recently released President's Report 2002, "Vision, Action, Innovation" ,at the beginning of the agenda. Mr. Ivan Muzychka, University Relations, was in attendance and following a short introduction by the President, Mr. Muzychka presented the report.

The report, which is available on CD and on the Web as well as a full colour highlights brochure, contains the university's complete audited financial statements as well as a thorough review of some of the achievements and accomplishments of the last year in the areas of teaching, research and community service. Mr. Muzychka concluded his presentation by noting that the full President's Report 2001-2002 is available at [www.mun.ca/2002report](http://www.mun.ca/2002report). The President thanked Mr. Muzychka for his presentation, invited feedback from Senators and encouraged everyone to make full use of the Report.

30. Memorial University of Newfoundland: Where the Net Works!

Dr. Simpson introduced the topic for the special meeting by noting that approximately one year ago, the Senior Executive Advisory Committee on Information Technology (SEACIT) recommended the establishment of the Web Policy Committee as part of the management of the World Wide Web. The Web Policy Committee consists of the following: Vice-President (Academic), University Librarian, University Registrar, Dean of Student Affairs and Services, Director of Alumni Affairs and Development, Director of Distance Education and Learning Technologies, Director of University Relations, Director of Computing and Communications and other faculty and staff - all of whom have responsibility for web development at the university.

On behalf of the Committee, the University Librarian and the Director of University Relations put together a green paper as a vehicle for a wider discussion. The paper outlines an ambitious vision and some important goals and it suggests several priorities. Dr. Simpson suggested that the response and discussion by Senators today will help shape the development of the paper but conversations will continue in Senate Committees such as the Committee on Educational Technology and the Committee on Research.

To facilitate discussion, Dr. Simpson asked Mr. Richard Ellis, University Librarian, to introduce the green paper.

Mr. Ellis remarked that Memorial can be proud of its role as an early adapter of communications technology and of the uses to which that technology has been put. It is now time, these initial steps having been taken, to define the role of the Net, the World Wide Web, and information technology in the development of Memorial's educational mandate and its increasingly complex system of internal communications. He noted that an alternative title for this discussion paper might be Beyond Opportunism, signaling a concerted effort to set out the direction the university will take and the goals it plans to accomplish as it assesses past efforts and directs future investments to ensure that they are part of a rational framework that keeps Memorial competitive in the changing post-secondary climate. He also noted that the green paper is available on-line by visiting [www.mun.ca/vpacademic](http://www.mun.ca/vpacademic).

A broad ranging discussion then ensued involving a large number of Senators. The following is a list, illustrative but not exhaustive, of comments and suggestions made:

- the desirability to expand that section of the paper dealing with the use of the web in research.
- the need to ensure that the web supplements but does not supplant other tools and technologies in the classroom, in academic offices and in administrative offices.
- the need to devote sufficient resources in an increasingly competitive budget situation to funding these important developments including the objective of making the web accessible to all faculty, staff and students.

- the necessity to maintain personal connections in teaching, advising, and other aspects of university life. In this regard, Dr. Simpson referenced the Student Success Plan which will soon be released to the Planning and Budget Committee.
- the need to determine the best use of the web in undergraduate student recruitment while at the same time noting the differences in undergraduate and graduate recruitment principles and strategies.
- the desirability to keep an open and adaptable plan in order to accommodate future use of the web in ways which today might be unimaginable.

Following the discussion, Dr. Simpson thanked Senators and commented that the points raised and directions suggested will be very useful to the Web Policy Committee and appropriate Senate Committees.

The President thanked Dr. Simpson and Mr. Ellis for preparing the materials and for leading the presentation which helped Senate focus on this important issue and he thanked all Senators who contributed to the discussion.

### 31. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.