

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND
SENATE

The special meeting of Senate was held on February 26, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. in Room E5004, Education Building.

67. PRESENT

The Acting President, Dr. C. Loomis, Dr. H. Pike, Ms. R. Cochrane, Dr. S. Birnie-Lefcovitch, Mr. G. Blackwood, Ms. L. Busby, Dr. T. Seifert (on behalf of Dean A. Collins), Mr. G. Collins, Dr. N. Golfman, Dr. T. Gordon, Dean G. Gorman, Dean R. Lucas, Dean R. Tremblay, Dr. S. Abhyankar (via videoconference), Dr. A. Adamec, Mr. E. Andrews (via videoconference), Dr. E. Brown, Dr. V. Bubenik, Mr. C. Clarke, Dr. J. Connor, Ms. B. Conran, Dr. G. George, Dr. J. Harris, Professor V. Kuester, Dr. D. McKay, Dr. W. Okshevsky, Dr. J. Quaicoe, Dr. C. Sharpe, Dr. K. Szego, Dr. P. Trnka, Professor D. Walsh, Dr. P. Wang, Dr. P. Wilson (via videoconference), Dr. J. Wyse, Mr. C. Campbell, Mr. J. Farrell, Mr. D. Flavius Monafu (via videoconference), Mr. D. Smith (via videoconference).

The following members of the ad hoc Committee of Senate to make Recommendations to Senate on the Future Structure, Composition, Duties and Powers and all related matters concerning the Senate(s) of Memorial University of Newfoundland were also in attendance:

Dr. Steve Wolinetz, Co-Chair, Department of Political Science
Dr. Jim Duffy, Co-Chair, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College (via videoconference)
Dr. Wade Bowers, Associate Vice-Principal (Research), Sir Wilfred Grenfell College (via videoconference)
Mr. Glenn Collins, Secretary of Senate
Dr. Adrian Fowler, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College (via videoconference)
Dr. Glyn George, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science (Senator)
Ms. Sharon Noftall-Bennett, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College (via videoconference)
Ms. Sheila Singleton, Deputy Registrar
Mr. Daniel Smith, Grenfell College Students' Union (Senator) (via videoconference)

68. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Dr. M. Collins, Dr. M. Bluehardt, Dr. A. Collins, Ms. E. Healey, Dr. S. LeFort, Dean J. Rourke, Mr. K. Baker, Dr. G. Clark, Dr. M. Daneshtalab, Dr. R. Helleur, Dr. S. Kenney, Dr. Frank King, Dr. A. Muhammad, Mr. K. Chowdhury, Mr. N. Eisnor, Ms. S. Magalios, Ms. S. Power, Mr. B. Russell.

69. SECOND REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE OF SENATE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO SENATE ON THE FUTURE STRUCTURE, COMPOSITION, DUTIES AND POWERS AND ALL RELATED MATTERS CONCERNING THE SENATE(S) OF MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

The Acting Chair opened the meeting by reminding Senators that at a meeting held on February 12, 2008, Senate considered a letter of the same date from the Board of Regents to the Secretary requesting that Senate reactivate the ad

Second Report of the ad hoc Committee of Senate to make Recommendations to Senate on the Future Structure, Composition, Duties and Powers and all related matters concerning the Senate(s) of Memorial University of Newfoundland (cont'd)

hoc Committee to make Recommendations to Senate on the Future Structure, Composition, Duties and Powers and all related matters concerning the Senate(s) of Memorial University of Newfoundland and request that the Committee reconvene and prepare a second report allowing for the operation of two Senates with two Boards as suggested by the Board of Regents in its memorandum.

Dr. Campbell noted that the second report of the ad hoc Committee has been received and that members of the Committee are in attendance. He then received leave of Senate that those members of the ad hoc Committee who are not members of Senate should feel free to participate in the discussion. Before asking Dr. Wolinetz to introduce the second report of the Committee, Dr. Campbell distributed the following draft motion, prepared in advance by the Secretary, for the consideration of Senate:

“That Senate

- (i) receive the second report of the ad hoc Committee of Senate to make Recommendations to Senate on the Future Structure, Composition, Duties and Powers and all related matters concerning the Senate(s) of Memorial University of Newfoundland; and*
- (ii) forward the report to the Board of Regents in response to its memorandum of February 12, 2008.”*

In introducing the second report of the ad hoc Committee, Dr. Wolinetz noted that the Committee reconvened to draft a report which would allow for the operation of two senates in a university system with two boards. He also noted that the report (a copy of which is lodged in the Senate files) was necessarily brief due to the following reasons:

- the time available to the Committee did not permit a detailed response;
- a university system made up of two universities without a common governing board would be a system in name only; and
- a detailed response was impossible without further information on the relationship envisaged between the two universities.

Dr. Wolinetz noted that the first report of the Committee, considered by Senate on January 22, 2008, examined the composition, duties and powers of the senates in a provincial university system with a common Board of Regents. He also noted that if a university system with two linked universities is envisaged, then many of the cooperation and collaboration mechanisms recommended in the first report could be employed. The Committee's second report suggests that the establishment of two universities with separate governing boards would:

- entail a more distant relationship between the universities;
- be a system in name only;

Second Report of the ad hoc Committee of Senate to make Recommendations to Senate on the Future Structure, Composition, Duties and Powers and all related matters concerning the Senate(s) of Memorial University of Newfoundland (cont'd)

- be more difficult for students to move back and forth between the universities; and
- heighten the possibility of disputes between the two universities being pushed into the political arena whereby the autonomy of the university system would be compromised.

As a result, the Committee is recommending that final authority be retained within the Memorial University system in the form of one governing board.

Senators then engaged in a lengthy and lively discussion around the process used by government to change the governance structure of the University. Several speakers suggested that Senate should recommend that the Board of Regents request that government delay reforming the university governance system and allow more time for this Senate and other bodies to consider the best solutions for the University and its students as well as for the province generally.

Other Senators argued that there has been more than ample opportunity for constructive dialogue in the past. They suggested that it is only natural for the University's governance system to change and that Senate should accept that this is going to occur.

Dr. McKay then moved that, in consideration of the Kelly-Davies Report, that Senate engage in constructive dialogue to explore options for increased autonomy for Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, and that Senate urges the Board of Regents to seek additional time and guidance before responding to government. However, on a point of order, Dr. Wilson suggested that the motion was out of order since it contravenes the purpose of the original motion to receive the report of the ad hoc Committee.

The Chair ruled the motion out of order in accordance with Clause IV.C.6. Rules of Order, of the Handbook of By-Laws and Procedures, which states "It is the duty of the Chair to ensure the decorum of Senate and order in its procedure. The Chair may rule on all matters of order and procedure. After explaining the ruling, the Chair may be challenged by a duly seconded motion, which is debatable...". Dr. Campbell explained that he ruled the motion out of order because the purpose of today's meeting was to discuss the report of the ad hoc Committee which was based on a university system with two senates and two boards.

It was moved by Dr. McKay and seconded by Dr. Adamec to challenge the ruling of the Chair. A vote taken on the motion to challenge the ruling of the Chair resulted in the motion being lost and hence the motion proposed by Dr. McKay was deemed out of order.

Second Report of the ad hoc Committee of Senate to make Recommendations to Senate on the Future Structure, Composition, Duties and Powers and all related matters concerning the Senate(s) of Memorial University of Newfoundland (cont'd)

It was then moved by Professor Kuester, seconded by Mr. Campbell and carried by majority vote that Senate:

(i) receive the second report of the ad hoc Committee of Senate to make Recommendations to Senate on the Future Structure, Composition, Duties and Powers and all related matters concerning the Senate(s) of Memorial University of Newfoundland; and

(ii) forward the report to the Board of Regents in response to its memorandum of February 12, 2008.

70. ADJOURNMENT

It was then moved by Dr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Campbell and carried by majority vote that the meeting stand adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY