

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND
SENATE

The special meeting of Senate was held on February 4, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in Room E5004, Education Building.

69. PRESENT

The Acting President, Dr. C. Loomis, Dr. H. Pike, Ms. R. Cochrane, Dr. M. Abrahams, Dr. S. Birnie-Lefcovitch, Mr. G. Blackwood, Dr. M. Bluechardt, Mr. G. Collins, Dean D. Dibbon, Dr. N. Golfman, Dr. T. Gordon, Dean G. Gorman, Dr. L. Hensman, Dr. J. Quaicoe, Dean R. Tremblay, Dean L. Walker, Dr. S. Abhyankar, Dr. D. Carroll (via videoconference), Dr. J. Connor, Ms. B. Conran, Dr. A. Fiech, Dr. S. Ghazala, Dr. G. George, Ms. L. Goddard, Mr. D. Haynes, Dr. D. Kimberley, Dr. S. Kocabiyik, Professor V. Kuester, Dr. J. Leibel, Dr. R. McGowan, Dr. D. McKay, Dr. K. Mearow, Dr. A. Muhammad, Dr. W. Okshevsky, Professor G. Riser, Mr. R. Roche, Dr. A. Rose, Professor W. Schipper, Dr. C. Sharpe, Dr. P. Trnka, Professor D. Walsh, Dr. P. Wang, Dr. P. Wilson, Mr. K. Abouchehade, Mr. T. Collins, Mr. J. Fleming (via videoconference), Mr. C. Little, Mr. R. Marshall, Ms. M. Penney, Mr. B. Russell.

Dr. Campbell welcomed all Senators including the following who joined from Sir Wilfred Grenfell College by videoconference: Dr. David Carroll, Mr. Josh Fleming.

The following members of the ad hoc Committee of the Board of Regents to Recommend Amendments to the Memorial University Act to Secure Autonomy for Memorial University of Newfoundland were also in attendance:

Ms. Donna Ball
Ms. Karen Hollett

70. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Dr. R. Gosine, Ms. K. Kennedy, Dr. R. Adamec, Mr. K. Baker, Mr. C. Clarke, Dr. M. Daneshtalab, Dr. D. Foster, Dr. S. Kenney, Dr. J. Wyse, Mr. T. Randell.

71. REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS TO RECOMMEND AMENDMENTS TO THE MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY ACT TO SECURE AUTONOMY FOR MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

Dr. Campbell reminded Senators of a memorandum dated January 21, 2009, from Mr. Robert Simmonds, Chair of the Board of Regents, in which he stressed that the report and the discussion to follow must be considered as being strictly confidential by members of both the Board of Regents and the Senate. Dr. Campbell remarked that the Board at its meeting tomorrow will consider and determine when to make the report public. However, Dr. Campbell stressed that at the appropriate time the report will become a public document. He also noted that he would like to welcome to the meeting several visitors who have a genuine interest in the topic of autonomy for the University. He requested that just as Senate appreciates the interest and

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Board of Regents to Recommend Amendments to the Memorial University Act to Secure Autonomy for Memorial University of Newfoundland (cont'd)

support of our visitors, Senate asks that they respect the confidentiality of the documents and the discussion on this topic.

Dr. Campbell then welcomed Mr. Bob Simmonds, Chair of the Board of Regents, to the meeting and he asked Dr. Wilson and Dean Golfman to present Motion #1.

Motion 1

Moved that the Chair of the Board of Regents be admitted to the meeting.

It was moved by Dr. Wilson, second by Dr. Golfman, and carried unanimously that this motion be approved.

Mr. Simmonds thanked Senators for the opportunity to attend this meeting of Senate where the important topic of autonomy for the University was being discussed. He noted that he accepted the position of Chair of the Board of Regents hoping that he could make a difference and one of the most important ways to accomplish this is by building trust between Senate and the Board of Regents.

Mr. Simmonds stressed that the request to postpone consideration of the report of the ad hoc Committee was based on his desire, as the new Chair of the Board, to become acquainted with the report and the many other complex and interrelated issues facing the University. He then noted that he wished to hear and take back to the Board of Regents the views of Senate on this topic.

Dr. Campbell invited Dr. Golfman to introduce the report of the ad hoc Committee of the Board of Regents to Recommend Amendments to the Memorial University Act to Secure Autonomy for Memorial University of Newfoundland. Dr. Golfman thanked Senators for their attendance. She stated that several members of the ad hoc Committee were in attendance including Senators Dr. Paul Wilson, Mr. Glenn Collins, and Mr. Ryan Marshall as well as Ms. Karen Hollett and Ms. Donna Ball, two other members of the ad hoc Committee. Dr. Golfman noted that members of the ad hoc Committee worked quickly and well together and honored the December 11, 2009, deadline by delivering a report on time. Dr. Golfman gave Senators an overview of the report along with its four recommendations noting that the report is true to its title, Balancing Autonomy and Accountability.

Dr. Campbell thanked Dr. Golfman and invited Senators to engage in a preliminary discussion on the report of the ad hoc Committee following which Senate would consider serially the motions, notice of which had been given. Many of the Senators who spoke thanked Mr. Simmonds for coming to the meeting. Senators endorsed the report fully but expressed concerns about the challenges in finding the way forward beyond this meeting and the next meeting of the Board of Regents. Many Senators suggested that the Board of Regents should restart the Presidential selection process in the near future. Mr. Simmonds noted that a new committee will be appointed by the Board of Regents and at the end of the process, only one name will be forwarded to Lieutenant Governor in Council for approval.

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Board of Regents to Recommend Amendments to the Memorial University Act to Secure Autonomy for Memorial University of Newfoundland (cont'd)

Motion 2

Moved that Senate accept the report of the ad hoc Committee of the Board of Regents to recommend Amendments to the Memorial University Act to secure Autonomy for Memorial University of Newfoundland (the Report) and endorse the recommendations therein.

It was moved by Dr. Golfman, seconded by Dr. Wilson, and carried unanimously that this motion be approved.

Motion 3

Section 56 (n) and (o) of the Memorial University Act states that Senate has the power “to consider all matters that are brought before it and to take action within the powers conferred upon the senate by this Act” and “to make recommendations to the board that may be considered appropriate for promoting the interests of the university and for carrying out the objects and provisions of this Act”

Moved that Senate recommend to the Board of Regents that it accept the recommendations contained in the Report.

It was moved by Dr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Golfman, and carried unanimously that this motion be approved.

Motion 4

Moved that Senate recommend to the Board of Regents that it forward the Report to the Minister of Education and engage the Minister in a discussion of the changes recommended in the Report.

It was moved by Dr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Golfman, and following considerable discussion, motion 4 was put to a vote and carried unanimously.

Dr. Campbell thanked the ad hoc Committee for doing a superb job in crafting its report with clarity and preciseness and he thanked Senators for their contribution to advancing the discussion on institutional autonomy.

72. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY