

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND
SENATE

The special meeting of Senate was held on January 22, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. in Room E5004, Education Building.

55. PRESENT

The Acting President, Dr. M. Collins, Dr. H. Pike, Dr. S. Birnie-Lefcovitch, Mr. G. Blackwood, Dr. M. Bluehardt, Ms. L. Busby, Mr. G. Collins, Dr. N. Golfman, Dr. T. Gordon, Ms. E. Healey, Dr. D. Kelly, Dean R. Lucas, Dean J. Rourke, Dean R. Tremblay, Dean L. Walker, Dr. S. Abhyankar, Dr. R. Adamec, Mr. E. Andrews, Mr. K. Baker, Dr. J. Connor, Ms. B. Conran, Dr. G. George, Ms. L. Goddard, Dr. J. Harris, Dr. R. Helleur, Dr. S. Kenney, Professor V. Kuester, Dr. D. McKay, Dr. W. Okshevsky, Dr. J. Quaicoe, Professor G. Riser, Mr. R. Roche, Dr. C. Sharpe, Dr. K. Szego, Dr. P. Trnka, Professor D. Walsh, Dr. P. Wilson, Dr. J. Wyse, Mr. K. Chowdhury, Mr. C. Campbell, Mr. N. Eisnor, Mr. J. Farrell, Ms. S. Magalios, Ms. S. Power, Mr. B. Russell, Mr. D. Smith.

The Acting Chair opened the meeting by welcoming members of Senate to this meeting for the purpose of discussing the 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. Dr. Campbell then distributed for the information of Senate, an Interim Statement from the Stakeholder Advisory Committee on the Implementation of the Kelly-Davies Report. Dr. Campbell noted that any remarks regarding the Interim Statement can be sent to him at president@mun.ca and he will forward them to the Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

56. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Dr. C. Loomis, Dr. J. Ashton, Dean A. Collins, Dean G. Gorman, Dean R. Gosine, Mr. C. Clarke, Dr. M. Daneshtalab, Dr. D. Foster, Dr. L. Hermanutz, Dr. D. Kimberley, Dr. F. King, Professor W. Schipper, Dr. P. Wang, Ms. K. Greenfield, Mr. D. Flavius Monafu.

57. 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 President reminded Senators that at a meeting held on September 11, 2007, Senate approved the mandate and membership structure for an 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 mandate of the ad hoc Committee was to study and make recommendations to Senate (for eventual consideration by the Board of Regents and the provincial Department of Education) on the future structure, composition, duties, powers and all related matters concerning the Senate(s) of Memorial University of Newfoundland. Dr. Campbell introduced the members of the ad hoc Committee as follows:

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)

Dr. Jim Duffy, Co-Chair, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College
Dr. Steve Wolinetz, Co-Chair, Department of Political Science
Dr. Mary Bluechardt, Human Kinetics and Recreation (Senator)
Dr. Wade Bowers, Associate Vice-Principal (Research), Sir Wilfred Grenfell College
Mr. Glenn Collins, Secretary of Senate
Mr. Nickolas Eisnor, Memorial University of Newfoundland Students' Union (Senator)
Dr. Adrian Fowler, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College
Mr. Gregory French, University Legal Counsel
Dr. Glyn George, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science (Senator)
Ms. Nicole Kieley, Graduate Students' Union (Senator)
Ms. Sharon Nofall-Bennett, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College
Ms. Sheila Singleton, Deputy Registrar
Mr. Daniel Smith, Grenfell College Students' Union (Senator)

Dr. Campbell then requested 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. Senate concurred with this request. Dr. Campbell then called on Dr. Wolinetz and Dr. Duffy, Co-Chairs of the ad hoc Committee to introduce the report.

In introducing the report of the Committee, Dr. Wolinetz and Dr. Duffy noted that the committee decided to take the *Sir Wilfred Grenfell College Review: Report by Consultants Professor John L. Davies and John Kelly*, submitted to the Department of Education of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador in 2006 as a basis for the assumptions about future governance. The report, released in April 2007, proposes that the St. John's and Corner Brook campuses of the present Memorial University of Newfoundland be reconstituted as separate universities in a single university system, each with its own president, budget and senate but with a single Board of Regents.

The report of the ad hoc Committee examines the composition, duties and powers of the senates of the two universities which will be part of the proposed future Memorial University system and considers ways in which the two senates can cooperate and coordinate their decisions. Key assumptions are that the two universities will continue to share common general regulations for undergraduate and graduate programs and that students will be able, as they are now, to move freely between the two campuses. The report proposes principles and practices which will facilitate cooperation between two universities enjoying the maximum autonomy consistent with their position in a provincial university system with a common Board of Regents. Conflict avoidance procedures and dispute resolution mechanisms which the two senates can adopt are proposed. Powers for the senates of the universities in Corner Brook and St. John's are suggested. The report also recommends that each senate be allowed to elect two of its members to the Board of Regents. A copy of the report is lodged in the Senate files.

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)

A lengthy discussion then took place involving a large number of Senators. Several speakers noted that Dr. Davies and Dr. Kelly did not consult with this Senate before writing their report and did not provide justification for the major changes being proposed for this University. Other speakers remarked that the provincial government appears to be doing an about-face by confirming the relevance of one university for the Province in 2005 with the release of the White Paper on Public Post-Secondary Education versus stating its intention of accepting the Davies/Kelly recommendation released in April 2007 that the St. John's and Corner Brook campuses of the present Memorial University of Newfoundland be reconstituted as separate universities in a single university system, each with its own president, budget and senate but with a single Board of Regents.

Other speakers remarked that government has publicly stated its intentions to change the governance structure of the University with the introduction of legislation changes in the spring and with implementation planned for the fall of 2008. They emphasized that these changes would be better informed if this Senate considered the recommendations contained in the report of the ad hoc Committee and advised the Board of Regents and the Provincial Government on the most appropriate framework for the two senates.

Following nearly two hours of debate and in response to a call for the question, the Chair distributed the following draft motion, prepared in advance by the Secretary, for the consideration of Senate:

- (i) accept the 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) recommend that the Board of Regents and the Department of Education, with a view to optimizing opportunities for teaching, learning and research for the benefit of students, staff and faculty and the province, use the report as a basis for constituting the new Senates of Memorial University.

In particular, Senate recommends that the Board of Regents and the Department of Education observe the principles enunciated in the report to ensure that the academic governance structure of the provincial university system balances collaboration across the system with appropriate autonomy for each of the constituent universities.

It was then moved by Dr. Collins and seconded by Mr. Smith that the above-noted motion be approved.

The following amendments, proposed by Dr. Adamec, were accepted by the mover and seconder as friendly amendments (the use of underscore indicates text to be inserted and the use of strikethrough indicates text to be deleted):

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)

- (i) accept, in principle, the 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) recommend that the Board of Regents ~~and the Department of Education~~, with a view to optimizing opportunities for teaching, learning and research for the benefit of students, staff and faculty and the province, use the report as a basis for constituting recommending the constitutions of the new Senates of Memorial University.

In particular, Senate recommends that the Board of Regents ~~and the Department of Education~~ observe the principles enunciated in the report to ensure that the academic governance structure of the provincial university system balances collaboration across the system with appropriate autonomy for each of the constituent universities.

Following discussion, the motion that Senate approve the above-noted motion with the proposed amendments, was carried by a majority vote.

Dr. Campbell then extended his thanks to the members of the ad hoc Committee for the preparation of the report as well as to members of Senate for today's useful discussion and comments.

58. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY