

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND
SENATE

The regular meeting of Senate was held on June 12, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. in Room E5004, Education Building.

121. PRESENT

The President, Dr. J. Crosbie, Chancellor, Dr. M. Collins (on behalf of Dr. E. Campbell), Dr. C. Loomis, Dr. J. Ashton, Dr. S. Birnie-Lefcovitch, Mr. G. Blackwood, Dr. M. Bluehardt, Dean A. Collins, Mr. G. Collins, Mr. R. Ellis, Dr. T. Gordon, Dean G. Gorman, Dean R. Gosine, Dr. T. Seifert (on behalf of Dr. C. Jablonski), Dr. S. LeFort, Dr. G. Gardner (on behalf of Dr. R. Lucas), Dean R. Tremblay, Dr. P. Cornish (on behalf of Dr. L. Walker), Dr. E. Brown, Dr. G. Clark, Mr. C. Clarke, Mr. E. Durnford, Dr. D. Foster, Ms. L. Goddard, Dr. J. Harris, Dr. R. Helleur, Dr. L. Hermanutz, Professor V. Kuester, Dr. D. McKay, Dr. W. Okshevsky, Dr. D. Pike, Professor G. Riser, Professor W. Schipper, Dr. C. Sharpe, Dr. K. Szego, Mr. R. Trenholm, Dr. P. Trnka, Dr. D. Tulett, Professor D. Walsh, Dr. P. Wilson, Mr. K. Chowdhury, Mr. N. Eisnor, Mr. J. Farrell, Mr. D. Flavius Monafu, Ms. S. Power, Mr. D. Smith

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming members of Senate to this meeting for the purpose of discussing the Report of the ad hoc Committee to Advise Senate on the Implications for Senate of the Davies/Kelly report on the Sir Wilfred Grenfell College Review. He also gave a special welcome to the Chancellor, Dr. John Crosbie.

122. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Dr. E. Campbell, Ms. R. Cochrane, Ms. E. Healey, Dr. L. Hensman, Dean C. Jablonski, Dean R. Lucas, Dean J. Rourke, Dean L. Walker, Ms. B. Conran, Mr. C. Couturier, Dr. M. Daneshtalab, Dr. G. George, Dr. O. Janzen, Dr. S. Kenney, Dr. D. Kimberley, Dr. F. King, Dr. C. Popadiuk, Dr. J. Quaicoe, Dr. J. Whitehead, Dr. J. Wright, Ms. K. Greenfield, Ms. N. Kieley, Ms. S. Magalios, Mr. B. Russell.

REGULAR AGENDA

123. REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO ADVISE SENATE ON THE IMPLICATIONS FOR SENATE OF THE DAVIES/KELLY REPORT ON THE SIR WILFRED GRENFELL COLLEGE REVIEW

The President reminded Senators that at a meeting held on May 8, 2007, Senate approved the mandate and membership for an ad hoc Committee to Advise Senate on the Implications for Senate of the Davies/Kelly Report on the Sir Wilfred Grenfell College Review. The mandate of the ad hoc Committee was to identify and comment on major implications and areas of strategic academic importance arising from the Davies/Kelly report on the Sir Wilfred Grenfell College Review and to prepare a report in time for today's meeting. Dr. Meisen then introduced the members of the ad hoc Committee as follows:

Dr. John Ashton, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College - Co-Chair
Mr. Richard Ellis, University Librarian - Co-Chair
Mr. Nick Eisnor, Memorial University of Newfoundland Students' Union
Ms. Faiza Enanny, Marine Institute
Dr. Dale Foster, Faculty of Business Administration
Mr. Daniel Smith, Grenfell College Students' Union
Ms. Sheila Singleton, Office of the Registrar
Dr. Paul Wilson, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College

Dr. Meisen emphasized the importance of the Davies/Kelly report which may foreshadow significant changes on many aspects of life at Memorial University including academic life at the University. He then called on Mr. Ellis and Dr. Ashton to introduce the report of the ad hoc Committee.

In introducing the report of the ad hoc Committee, Mr. Ellis noted that the ad hoc Committee did not make recommendations or offer solutions but rather identified issues that should be of interest to Senate. He also noted that the report of the ad hoc Committee is based on the adoption of Recommendation 1(a) of the Davies/Kelly report (the consultants preferred option) that there will be one Board of Regents overseeing the operation of two universities, one located in St. John's and one in Corner Brook each with its own Senate.

Dr. Ashton then remarked that the intention of the ad hoc Committee was to produce a relatively brief report which dealt with the implementation of recommendation 1(a) in the Davies/Kelly report. Dr. Ashton then referred to a recent press release issued by the Board of Regents announcing its intention to conduct an analysis of the alternatives available to the University.

Following Dr. Ashton's remarks, the President advised Senators that at its meeting on May 22, 2007, the Board of Regents instructed the University's administration to develop a detailed analysis of the following two alternatives:

1. One university with campuses in St. John's and Corner Brook based on principles in Option 1(b) of the Davies/Kelly Report with the possibility of two Senates, if necessary, and
2. Two independent universities - one in St. John's and one in Corner Brook - each with its own Board of Regents but working together within one provincial university system.

Dr. Meisen also noted that Dr. Adamec, in an e-mail dated May 28, 2007, advised that he was unable to attend today's meeting and requested that his comments be circulated to the ad hoc Committee as well as to members of Senate in time for today's meeting. Copies of Dr. Adamec's comments were distributed with the agenda package. A copy is also lodged in the Senate files.

Senators then engaged in a lengthy and lively discussion on the options for governance of the University. Some of the issues identified included the following:

- the absence of public debate on the proposed change to the one-University system which has been in place in this province for more than 50 years and which was re-affirmed by the Province with the release in 2005 of the White Paper on Public Post-Secondary Education in Newfoundland and Labrador.

- the need for and the implications of extensive coordination which will be required with two more autonomous institutions.
- the importance of accessibility and portability for students in any new university system.
- the role of Senate in the process leading to and following the Davies/Kelly report.
- flaws in the consultant's report and the need for more analysis in the report of the ad hoc Committee.

As a result of deliberations held at a meeting of the Executive Committee of Senate on June 7, 2007, the Secretary suggested the following resolutions for the consideration of Senate:

- (i) receive the report of the Ad hoc Committee to Advise Senate on the Implications for Senate of the Davies/Kelly Report on the Sir Wilfred Grenfell College Review; and
- (ii) in the strongest possible terms, request that before any changes to the academic governance structure of Memorial University of Newfoundland are considered for implementation by either the Board of Regents or the Department of Education, that the Board of Regents and/or the Department of Education seek the views of Senate on the academic implications of such changes.

In response to a suggestion from the floor, it was agreed to split the motion into two parts.

The motion that Senate receive the report of the Ad hoc Committee to Advise Senate on the Implications for Senate of the Davies/Kelly Report on the Sir Wilfred Grenfell College Review which was moved by Mr. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Smith, carried by a majority vote.

With respect to the second motion, it was moved by Dr. Crosbie and seconded by Dr. Tulett to remove the word "academic" in the second line and the last line of the motion.

The motion that Senate, in the strongest possible terms, request that before any changes to the governance structure of Memorial University of Newfoundland are considered for implementation by either the Board of Regents or the Department of Education, that the Board of Regents and/or the Department of Education seek the views of Senate on the implications of such changes, which was moved by Mr. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Smith, carried by a majority vote.

Dr. A. Collins then moved that Senate strike a second ad hoc committee to prepare a report on behalf of Senate for the purpose of providing advice on proposed changes to the governance structure and any implications of such changes to the Board of Regents and the Department of Education. However, the Chair noted that since today's meeting of Senate was called to consider the report of the first ad hoc Committee, Dean Collins' motion would serve as notice of motion.

124. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY