

Item: Board of Governors Minutes, February 2012

Call Number: Board of Governors fonds, UA-1

Additional Notes:

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BOARD OF GOVERNORS

**Approved Minutes of the Meeting (Open Session)
held on February 14, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.
Coburg Board Room, Mona Campbell Building**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Spatz (Chair) (via telephone), J. Abbass, Michelle Awad, Barrie Black, William (Bill) Black (via telephone), Joyce Carter, Wadih Fares, Fred Fountain, Lloyd Fraser, Dustin Griffin, Lynn Irving, Max Ma, George McLellan, Aubrey Palmetier, Chris Saulnier, Chris Smith, Larry Stordy, Tom Traves, Nancy MacCready Williams (Acting Chair), Jim Wilson, Susan Brousseau (University Secretary)

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Ken Burt (VP Finance and Administration), Peter Fardy (Asst. VP External), Bonnie Neuman (VP Student Services), Katherine Sheehan (Asst. VP Human Resources), Susan Spence Wach (Assoc. VP Academic), Carolyn Watters (VP Academic and Provost), Tony Virgin (Minute Taker)

REGRETS: John Baxter, Gail Tomblin Murphy, Stan Spavold, Candace Thomas, Martha Crago (VP Research), Floyd Dykeman (VP External)

1. Approval of Agenda

Moved by J. Abbass, seconded by M. Awad:

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

The motion CARRIED.

2. Consent Agenda

Item 2.1 on the consent agenda was approved by consent

2.1 Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of November 29, 2011

Motion. **THAT the minutes of the meeting held on November 29, 2011 be approved as presented.**

Approved by Consent.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

3.1 Proposed Student Consultation Process

C. Watters reviewed the Tuition and Fee Consultation Procedures document, noting that this was developed following the Board discussion of a proposed framework at its meeting in November. Following that discussion, the Legal Counsel's Office was asked to prepare a procedures document that would encapsulate the intent of the draft framework and set out a clear process for student consultation in relation to tuition and fees approved by the Board, consistent with the Board of Governors Tuition Policy. C. Saulnier confirmed that he was consulted in the preparation of this document and that he supports the process described in the document.

Moved by M. Awad, seconded by L. Stordy:

THAT the Board of Governors approve the Tuition and Fee Consultation Procedures document as presented.

The Motion CARRIED.

4. Chair's Report

N. MacCready-Williams, on behalf of Jim Spatz, Board Chair, reported on two motions passed by the Board Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board, in the interim since the last meeting of the Board in November. These motions, approved on December 15, 2011, are as follows:

Motion 1:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Governors Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board, approve increases in the scope and budget of the Ocean Excellence Centre (OEC) project, as recommended by the Board of Governors Operations Committee at its meeting on December 6, 2011, so that the resulting project budget will not exceed \$35M.

Motion 2:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Operations Committee, authorize and direct the President and the Vice-President, Finance and Administration to borrow up to \$70 million as required for the funding of the Mixed Use Facility, and Oceans Excellence Centre and, in accordance with the Document Execution/Contract Signing Authority Policy, to take all such actions to execute and deliver such agreements, instruments and documents in writing and to do all such acts and things in their opinion as may be necessary or desirable in the name and on behalf of the University or otherwise to give effect to this Resolution.

Ms. MacCready-Williams also congratulated Larry Stordy on the recent awarding of his Queen's Council designation.

5. President's Report

T. Traves reported on the recent Dalhousie Community meeting and, in particular, the discussion with some neighbours respecting the location of a new arena and their concerns about the prospect of Dalhousie building the facility on the southern side of South Street (the current site of Eliza Ritchie Hall). He reiterated that there has been no decision on this matter at this point in time and that various options are under consideration. He noted that the neighbours have expressed their interpretation of the legal position of locating the rink on South Street and the University has turned this over to its lawyers for review. The University will continue to explore the various options and will come back to the Board when there is a proposed plan to recommend.

In the discussion that followed, Board members suggested that it would be beneficial to make a decision relatively quickly and that the University should be clear on articulating the attributes of a proposed facility. There was discussion of reputation issues and also further exploration of the current understanding of the benefits and costs of building a new arena as compared to renovating the current arena. It was noted that there are significant issues with

the roof of the current structure, but there are other issues as well, including the lack of dressing rooms and other needed space; making changes to the current facility would approach the cost of building a new arena and the University would still have the problems of the old infrastructure of the current building.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Dr. Traves responded that administration would bring back to the Board a report on its understanding of the University's options and a recommendation for proceeding. If all information is not available by the next meeting in April, there will, at the very least, be a report back to members that will give the Board a sense of the evolving picture. He agreed that it is important that the University move forward on this matter in a timely manner. Members also requested information on the dove-tailing of this project with the Campus Master Plan framework.

6. Dalhousie Student Union President's Report

Chris Saulnier reported on a voter registration drive the DSU has initiated in advance of the fall 2012 municipal election, the DSU elections currently underway and the concerns of students regarding the potential for a strike by Dalhousie faculty. He also noted his support for the implementation of clear procedures regarding student consultation in relation to tuition and fees matters and suggested that, moving forward, it would be useful to begin a review of fees currently assessed to students to ensure that these are continuing to meet the purposes identified when the fees were implemented.

In response to a question on how the Board might act on Mr. Saulnier's suggestion regarding a fee review, Mr. Saulnier proposed that he bring back to the next meeting a proposal for what such a report might contain.

7. Items for Decision

7.1 Revised Naming Policy

P. Fardy briefly reviewed the reasons for bringing forward the Revised Naming Policy. L. Fraser noted one point of clarification in terms of Section E(1)(c) which deals with the naming of academic assets. Although this is intended as a policy to deal with donor recognition, there could be an issue of interpretation in terms of the current Senate authority and procedures with respect to the naming of academic assets; he noted that Section 3 suggests that the policy can be seen as being broader than just donor recognition. The Board approved the policy, but agreed that it should come back to the Board under Business Arising with this clarification incorporated.

Moved by W. Fares, seconded by B. Black:

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Operation Committee, approve the Naming Policy as presented.

The motion CARRIED.

8. Items for Information

8.1 Memorandum of Understanding – Update

T. Traves provided a brief report on work on the on-going activities and initiatives mandated under the new three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the province. He noted

that the Change Mandate described in the MOU includes reviews of several areas, including the formula for allocation of the provincial grant among universities and tuition-related policies, as well as the development of plans to achieve ongoing cost reductions across the university system. A number of these items have significant implications for Dalhousie and he will bring updates to the Board as issues are addressed.

8.2 Budget Advisory Committee Report XLVII

C. Watters provided an overview of the work of the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) and the highlights of the report. She noted that this report lays out the context within which decisions on balancing the 2012-13 budget will be made; the Committee's second report, expected in early March, will make recommendations for addressing the currently anticipated shortfall of \$6.9 million.

Questions followed with members seeking clarification on the Board's role in decision-making on how the budget shortfall will be made up and how budget surpluses from previous years are dealt with in the current budget. C. Watters reviewed the process that leads to the presentation of the proposed budget to the Board in June.

8.3 Board Standing Committee Reports

N. MacCready-Williams referred Board members to the written reports for the following committees: Academic Affairs and Research, Audit, Executive, Governance and Nominating, Human Resources, Operations and Student Experience. There were no questions on the reports.

9. *In Camera* Session

The Board moved to an *in camera* session. During this session a motion was approved to appoint the Board's nominees to the Presidential Search Committee, effective immediately.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.