

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
DOUGLAS COLLEGE BOARD  
Open Session**

**February 19, 2009  
New Westminster Campus Boardroom**

Open Meeting File No. 2009-02-19

Approved March 19, 2009

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**ATTENDANCE**

Board Members: G. Bowbrick, B. Clarke, C. Gibson, M. Hemmingsen, M. Hwang, P. Kendrick, A. Kitching, A. MacGrotty, M. Russell, M. Steinbach, P. Wates, S. Witter (ex-officio)

Regrets: S. Meshwork (ex-officio), A. Taylor

Observers: S. Briggs (DCFA), M. Ferley (BCGEU)

Administration: B. Barber, M. Exmann, B. Jensen, K. Maynes, G. Ouyang, C. Worsley and Acting Vice President, Education Kathy Denton  
Regrets from J. Lindsay, H. Postma

Guests\*: Kevin Barrington-Foote, Grace Barrington-Foote, Bob Browne, David Gordon Duke, Keith Ellis, A. Lucia Fuentes, Leon Guppy, Mikki Herbold, Geoffrey Lenahan, Len Mills, Susan Oesterle, Adrienne Peacock, Bob Pritchard, Lynette Sigola-Barreto, Wesley Snider, Neal Steinman, Lyndon Surjik, Des Wilson  
Regrets from Mary Burns

Recording: S. Donnelly

\* All guests attended the meeting in part, rather than in full.

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Acting Chair Ann Kitching called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. She welcomed all guests in attendance, particularly the Faculty Emeritus honourees, and relayed regrets from those unable to attend.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Peter Kendrick, seconded by Michael Hwang and unanimously resolved:

04/2009 *THAT the agenda be approved as distributed.*

**3. PRESENTATION OF FACULTY EMERITUS AWARDS:  
Kevin Barrington-Foote, Mary Burns and Dr. Adrienne Peacock**

The Acting Chair invited attendees to join her in honouring recipients of the fifth annual Douglas College Faculty Emeritus awards, retirees who had demonstrated sustained excellence over a period of at least ten years at the College. Each honouree had demonstrated excellence in teaching and related work, outstanding contributions to one's discipline and outstanding contributions to the College community.

The Acting Chair proceeded with speeches highlighting the contributions of Kevin Barrington-Foote (Music), Mary Burns (Creative Writing) and Dr. Adrienne Peacock (Biology). In turn, Kevin Barrington-Foote and Adrienne Peacock conveyed appreciation of this recognition. Award plaques were presented, and a brief recess held while photographs were taken to mark the occasion.

#### **4. BOARD RECOGNITION OF NEAL STEINMAN**

Acting Chair Ann Kitching formally recognised and thanked former Board member Neal Steinman for his service to the College Board, and presented him with a certificate commemorating both his contributions and a donation to the Douglas College Foundation, made by the Board on his behalf. In thanking the Board for this recognition, Neal Steinman credited both the Board and the College for the many ways in which they touch the communities they serve.

#### **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2009**

It was moved by Cathie Gibson, seconded by Peter Kendrick and unanimously resolved:

05/2009

*THAT the minutes be approved with an amendment to reflect that the January 2009 meeting was held at the David Lam Campus.*

#### **6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

There was no business arising.

#### **7. INFORMATION/COMMUNICATION**

##### **7.1.1 BC Government and Service Employees' Union (BCGEU)**

In the absence of a report, the Acting Chair invited questions; there were none.

##### **7.1.2 Douglas College Faculty Association (DCFA)**

The Acting Chair thanked Susan Briggs for her report and invited questions; there were none.

##### **7.1.3 Douglas Students' Union (DSU)**

In the absence of Constituency Group Leader Hassan Chaudhry, DSU Treasurer Geoffrey Lenahan requested and was granted the opportunity to speak to the Board on behalf of the DSU. Geoffrey Lenahan thanked the Board's Audit and Finance Committee for permitting him, as DSU Treasurer, to attend three of their committee meetings to deal with issues. He expressed the DSU's relief with the Audit and Finance Committee's approach to a proposal associated with DSU compliance and the DSU's desire to be removed from receivership, and conveyed the DSU's interest in putting the past behind them and moving forward to help DSU members.

Paul Wates, as Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee, responded by thanking and recognising Geoffrey Lenahan for the leadership role he had assumed in working toward resolution of issues. The Acting Chair thanked Geoffrey Lenahan for his presentation, and Geoffrey Lenahan expressed interest in attending future Board meetings on behalf of the DSU Constituency Group Leader.

#### **8. REPORTS**

##### **8.1 Board Chair**

The Acting Chair reported that, following the recent call for nominations of candidates for the two student Board member vacancies, David Guedes had been elected by acclamation. Board members look forward to welcoming Mr. Guedes to the table. As there will be a second vacancy effective September 1, 2009, Registrar Trish Angus has issued a second call for nominations.

**8. REPORTS****8.1 Board Chair, cont'd**

Three Order In Council Board vacancies will occur during 2009, and the Acting Chair encouraged identification of potential nominees, who may be invited to contact the Board Executive Assistant for information about the nomination process.

Graeme Bowbrick, Mary Hemmingsen, Peter Kendrick and Paul Wates will attend the Association of Canadian Community Colleges' (ACCC's) 2009 Annual Conference. The Acting Chair also reported on the highly moving and successful graduation ceremonies of the previous week, and invited Board members to report on a number of matters. Nomination Committee representative Cathie Gibson reported that she would be contacting eligible Order in Council Board members in the week ahead to seek nominations for the election of Board officers, and she encouraged people to consider allowing their names to be put forward.

Mary Hemmingsen provided an update on the efforts of College Presidents and Board Chairs to advocate, through BC Colleges (BCC), on behalf of colleges. Board Chairs meet quarterly with College Presidents, and Mary Hemmingsen was scheduled to attend the subsequent day's meeting on behalf of Andrew Taylor. Progress has been achieved, and BCC efforts are seen as driving budget outcomes.

Mary Hemmingsen reported on the recent BC Economic Summit, which she had attended, along with delegates from BCC, on behalf of the Douglas College Board.

**8.2 Education Council****8.2.1 Chair's Report****8.2.2 Board Liaison's Report**

The Acting Chair noted Susan Meshwork's regrets, and invited questions associated with either the Chair's report or with her undertakings as Education Council Liaison; there were none.

**8.3 President**

Susan Witter reported that provincial budget implications for Douglas College were a little unclear, and that the upcoming Douglas College budget letter from the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development (ALMD) would provide more detail. She echoed comments reflecting the extensive advocacy work being undertaken by both BCC and the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC), and noted the optimism that ALMD Deputy Minister Robin Ciceri is recognised as someone who understands and supports BC's college system.

Board members commended Susan Witter and her team on the development of an affiliation agreement with Simon Fraser University (SFU). Susan Witter acknowledged the significant contributions of project leader Dr. Kathy Denton, who was in attendance as Acting Vice President, Education.

**9. BOARD COMMITTEES****9.1 Audit and Finance Committee**

Chair Paul Wates reported on the committee's recent work, which included input to a draft agreement for collection of fees for The Other Press; detailed information will be presented at the March 2009 College Board meeting. The committee has also focused on Douglas Students' Union (DSU) matters, which Paul Wates advised he would address during the In Camera meeting.

## **9. BOARD COMMITTEES**

### **9.1 Audit and Finance Committee, cont'd**

The Board budget remains in order, and the committee's review of the Board budget was accompanied by reconsideration of how many delegates the Board would send to the May 2009 Association of Canadian Community Colleges' (ACCC's) Annual Conference. Although it would strain the Board budget, the committee then recommended – given significant interest and reductions in travel costs – that the Board send four delegates, rather than three.

The committee had also considered the proposed 2009/10 College budget, drawing on information provided by Karen Maynes. At Paul Wates' invitation, Karen Maynes then presented a detailed review of budget plans. The recent provincial budget contained a statement that the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development (ALMD) would fund collective agreements negotiated for 2009/10, but much of the relevant information was yet to be provided. There are reports that \$55 million will be made available annually for enhancement of general access to post-secondary education; while it is anticipated that such monies may be allocated equally across the post-secondary sector, details as to the allocation of such funding are anticipated in the weeks ahead. It was noted that provincial revenues have dropped substantially and that financial commitments could change during the course of this election year.

Karen Maynes noted that while the Audit and Finance Committee, in its budget deliberations, recognised that the Board budget itself is modest, it also recognised the importance of keeping that modest status unchanged in the fiscal year ahead.

### **9.1 Financial/FTE Reporting**

Paul Wates advised that, while Douglas College began the current fiscal year with a structural deficit, a number of changes – including an increase in contributions from International Education – have resulted in the Audit and Finance Committee's projection of a \$600,000 surplus for 2008/09. Full Time Enrolment (FTE) reports for Winter 2009 indicate an increase in enrolments; it is hoped that, while this is seen as a result of the challenging economic situation, this may be the start of a trend in increasing enrolments. The Acting Chair commended Karen Maynes and her team for their financial expertise and prudent management.

### **9.2 Human Resources Committee**

Chair Cathie Gibson advised that the committee had no news to report.

### **9.3 Presidential Search Advisory Committee (PSAC)**

Chair Paul Wates reported that the PSAC had met again on February 11, 2009 to consider its rankings of selection criteria and competencies, and that the committee would meet again on February 25, 2009 to consider all applications received to that point.

## **10. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Acting Chair noted the items referenced in the agenda and invited questions; there were none.

## **11. ISSUES ARISING FROM BOARD MEETING**

There were no such matters.

**12. BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS**

Board members reported on recent activities and the numerous events they had attended on behalf of the College. Michael Hwang noted that the City of New Westminster had launched the celebration of its 150th anniversary the prior week and that, when he attended these historic and multicultural celebrations, he was delighted to meet and speak with some of the College's international students who were also in attendance. He reported on his efforts to help the City of New Westminster in its search for a sister city in Korea. Ann Kitching noted that, in speaking with a number of Douglas College graduates at the prior week's Winter Graduation ceremonies, she learned that each of those graduates had already secured a job, and that these were the graduates' jobs of choice.

**13. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING**

The next College Board meeting was confirmed for Thursday, March 19, 2009. It will begin at 6:00 p.m., in the David Lam Campus boardroom.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

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CHAIR

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PRESIDENT