

MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY
MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

May 9, 2019, 1:30 p.m.
Tweedie Hall

Present: F. Antonelli, B. Blakney, JP. Boudreau (Chair), C. Brett (Secretary), A. Cockshutt, O. Corrigan, G. Cruttwell, J. Devine, E. Edson, B. Evans, N. Farooqi, C. Forstall, A. Grant, J. Holton, R. Inglis, R. Ireland, L. Kern, D. Lieske, J. Lilburn, M. Litvak, S. MacIver, K. Meade, R. Moser, A. Nurse, J. Ollerhead (Vice-Chair), C. Parker, E. Patterson, D. Poitras, J. Rogers, S. Runge, L. Snyder, V. St. Pierre, F. Strain, E. Titarenko, J. Tomes, M. Truitt, A. Cock, W. Wilson

Regrets: P. Berry, F. Black, A. Cannon, J. Dryden, A. Fancy, O. Griffiths, D. Hornidge, M. Klohn, B. Robertson, E. Steuter, N. Verret

Observers: A. Beverley, A. Comfort, LD. Hamilton

01.05.09 Land Acknowledgement

JP. Boudreau read the statement of aboriginal custodianship.

02.05.09 Approval of the Agenda

Motion (M. Truitt/S. Unger): that Senate adopt the Agenda as circulated.

Motion Carried

03.05.09 Approval of the Senate Minutes of March 12, 2019

Motion (V. St. Pierre/A. Cockshutt): that Senate adopt the Minutes of the meeting of March 12, 2019.

Motion Carried (1 abstention)

04.05.09 Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

05.05.09 Report from the Chair

JP. Boudreau provided each senator with an éclair as a token of his appreciation for their work.

He thanked everyone for their work throughout the academic year, and expressed his excitement for the upcoming Convocation and Reunion. He noted the arrival of the Class of 54. He congratulated students who will be graduating.

On the internal front, the President noted that the university is working toward a strategic plan focused on the following elements:

1. Academic programs: with emphasis on differentiating Mount Allison and opening up new programs, partnerships and credentials.

Motion (N. Farooqi/C. Parker): that Senate approve changes to the Music Program as outlined in the Report to Senate, May, 2019

Motion Carried

Motion (N. Farooqi/C. Parker): that Senate approve changes to the Geography and Environment Program as outlined in the Report to Senate, May, 2019

Motion Carried

Motion (N. Farooqi/C. Parker): that Senate approve the addition of Arts courses as outlined in the Report to Senate, May, 2019

Motion Carried

Motion (N. Farooqi/C. Parker): that Senate approve the Certificate in Biopsychology as outlined in the Report to Senate, May, 2019

Motion Carried

Motion (N. Farooqi/C. Parker): that Senate approve the Certificate in Social Research Methodologies as outlined in the Report to Senate, May, 2019

Motion Carried

Motion (N. Farooqi/C. Parker): that Senate approve changes to Calendar Regulations 10.3.2 AND 4.4.1 as outlined in the Report to Senate, May, 2019

Motion Carried

The committee also submitted a Report on Distribution Requirements (appended to these minutes). R. Ireland asked whether any action would be taken regarding distribution requirements. He noted that action may be needed to counter a drop in enrollment in first-year courses in Modern Languages. N. Farooqi responded that the Committee chose not to make a recommendation at this time. E. Patterson added that the committee thought that a judgment two years into the life of the current system might be premature. S. MacIver warned that waiting to take action also has dangers, especially for enrollments in Modern Languages.

09.05.09 Report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Withdrawal Policies

A. Cockshutt gave the report (appended to these minutes), which contained the following motion.

Motion (A. Cockshutt/ C. Parker): that the Withdrawal Policy be returned to that in place from 2008/2009 until 2016/2017; specifically, that Calendar Regulations 10.4.1, 10.4.3, and 10.4.4 be changed as outlined in the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Withdrawal Policies.

Motion Carried (24 yays, 11 nays)

A. Cockshutt noted that the system introduced in 2017 had two drawbacks. First, some students withdrew from courses very late in order to avoid low grades. Second, late withdrawal of students posed problems in courses with group work components. She noted that the recommendation of the committee was not unanimous.

S. Unger said that students do not favour reverting to the 2008-2017 system. They would rather the problems of the existing system be remedied through evolution rather than taking a step backward.

A. Cockshutt noted that student concerns were taken into account. She also remarked that the proposed drop date would be the latest among universities in the Maritime Provinces and the proposed withdrawal date would be consistent with those at other universities.

S. MacIver noted that the 2017 system has increases stress levels in upper year courses with group work, and any system must balance this concern with the potential mental health benefits of allowing late withdrawals. J. Devine then asked if the Meighen Centre had any evidence on the mental health effects of the 2017 system. A. Comfort noted that the 2017 system led to a reduction in the number of cases for withdrawal from courses processed by the Centre.

J. Tomes noted that reverting to the 2008-2017 system would require working out criteria for making decisions on whether to grant late withdrawals. She asked whether these criteria had been drawn up. R. Moser asked if it would be possible to tailor the withdrawal policy to the type of course so as to avoid, for example, the problems identified in courses with group work.

C. Parker noted that it would be difficult to monitor a highly differentiated system.

A. Cockshutt, E. Patterson, and J. Ollerhead then engaged in a discussion of the apparent asymmetry of allowing students to drop courses within four weeks of the start of term, while allowing just two weeks to add courses. It was noted that this gives students more flexibility than is available at many other institutions.

JP. Boudreau underscored the need to find out the needs of all students in matters such as these. He thanked students for their input on this issue.

10.05.09 Report from the Committee on Committees

J. Tomes gave the report, which consisted of the following motions.

Motion 1: (J. Tomes/

Academic Matters Committee

1 faculty member or librarian (any faculty)

Robert Lapp

Admissions and Readmissions

Krista Johnston

Teaching & Learning Committee

1 faculty member from Science

Karen Crosby (Science)

Honorary Degrees Committee

Carla VanBeselaere
Mario Levesque

Senate elected Mario Levesque to the committee.

Motion 5: (J. Tomes/V. St. Pierre) The Committee on Committees moves that Senate acclaim the following nominee to the Graduate Studies committee for a term beginning immediately and ending June 30, 2019:

Motion Carried

Matt Betti

Motion 6: (J. Tomes /V. St. Pierre) The Committee on Committees moves that the following students be acclaimed to positions on the following committees for terms to begin immediately and end in May 2020:

Motion Carried

Motion 7: (J. Tomes /V. St. Pierre) The Committee on Committees moves that the following students be acclaimed to positions on the following committees for terms to begin immediately and end in May 2020:

Sam Fischer

Graduation Review Committee: 1 student, elected by the Senate

Brandon Blakney

International Programs Committee: 1 student who has been on an international exchange or study abroad program (nominated by the co-ordinators of international exchanges and study abroad programs), elected by the Senate

Claire Genest

Research and Creative Activities Committee: 2 students, one from the Science faculty and one from the Arts/Social Science faculties, elected by the Senate

Jessica Vickery (Science)

Olivia Corrigan (Arts)

Scholarships and Bursaries Committee: 1 student, elected by the Senate

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Teaching and Learning Committee: 2 students, elected by the Senate

Olivia Corrigan

S. MacIver thanked Janine Rogers for introducing the new ARTS 1991 course.

14.05.09 Other Business

S. Unger and N. Fry, on behalf of MASU, presented thank-you gifts to M. Truitt, S. MacIver, and C. Parker, all of whom are scheduled to leave Mount Allison over the upcoming summer. Senators added their appreciation via a round of applause.

J. Ollerhead reminded senators of the website containing information on External Reviews. He announced that Canadian Studies, Geography and Environment, and Fine Arts are currently preparing their self-studies. He also asked departments wishing to request tenure-track appointments to submit their requests to the University Planning Committee by Labour Day.

C. Parker thanked senators for their collegiality during her time as Registrar.

15.05.09 Adjournment

There being no further business or announcements, the meeting adjourned at 2:56