

MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY
MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

March 15, 2022, 4:00pm
via Microsoft Teams

Present via remote connection: N. Anthonisen, K. Bell, A. Beverley, B. Blakney, J-P. Boudreau (Chair), C. Burke, B. Clayton, A. Comfort, H. Crouse, G. Desmarais, T-A. Dixon, B. Evans, A. Fancy, S. Fanning, N. Farooqi, D. Fleming, D. Hamilton, L-D. Hamilton, J. Hennessy (Vice-Chair), R. Inglis, C. Ionescu, K. Johnston, J. Kalyn, S. Keller, L. Kern, A. Koval, A. Kreuger, L. Landon, R. Lapp, A. Lepage, M. Levesque, D. Lieske, M. Litvak, C. Lovekin, G. MacLean-de Stecher, R. Majithia, C. Major, V. Meli, M-E. Messinger, N. Milliea, R. Minocha-McKenney, R. Moser (Secretary), J. Mullen, C. Pringle-Carver, B. Robertson, S. Runge, E. Steuter, E. Penton, V. St. Pierre, K. Stentafor, J. Tomes, N. Vogan, W. Wilson

Observers: P. Berry, J. Devine, L. Hawthorne, K. Hele, G. Sandala, L. Shumka,

Regrets: L. Garnett

01.03.15 Territorial Acknowledgement

J-P. Boudreau noted the change in the agenda item from ‘land acknowledgment’ to ‘territorial acknowledgment’, and indicated that there is now an official territorial acknowledgment written by Elders and the Indigenous Advisory Circle. He read it as follows:

We would like to acknowledge that we are located within the territory of Mi’kma’ki, the unceded, ancestral territory of the Mi’kmaq. Our relationship and our privilege to live on this territory was agreed upon in the Peace and Friendship Treaties of 1752. Because of this treaty relationship it is to be acknowledged that we are all Treaty people and have a responsibility to respect this territory.

This acknowledgment is to be read at all official Mt.A. events. The Chair noted, from consultation with Elders and the IAC, that it is acceptable to offer an acknowledgment spoken from the heart, but if one is not comfortable doing this then best practice is to read the official acknowledgment. The Chair said a communication to the campus community about this is forthcoming.

02.03.15 Approval of agenda

Motion (N. Farooqi / R. Minocha-McKenney): that Senate adopt the agenda as presented.

Motion carried

03.03.15 Approval of the minutes (8 February, 2022)

The Chair noted that a web link to his statement on divestment would be added to the minutes as an amendment.

Motion (B. Evans / H. Crouse): that Senate adopt the minutes of the meeting of 8 February, 2022 as amended.

Motion carried

04.03.15 Business arising from the minutes

The Chair offered an update on the statement on divestment. He said Mt.A. has engaged Mercer to better understand what other Canadian universities are doing concerning divestment. Some initial observations: some have committed to divestment, some have committed to ESG principles, some are having discussions about investment management, and all take fiduciary and legal duties seriously. The Mercer study will review and form a best-in-class approach for Mt.A. The Chair is also in a working group of university presidents across the country on this matter.

05.03.15 Chair's remarks

COVID-19

Yesterday there was a change toward dropping many COVID regulations in New Brunswick. Mt.A. will continue to stay with all COVID measures until April 30. There are 61 active cases reported, all are in contact and following protocol. The Chair issued a strong plea not to become complacent, but to stay the course, follow protocols, be mindful & look out for one another in the community.

Enrollment

Applications and deposits look good, and we're tracking ahead of last year, and in some cases tracking ahead of 2019. The Chair congratulated everyone on a great Open House, with great faculty lectures and great engagement from students.

Budget

The Budget Development Group is working on a post-COVID budget. There are far more requests than funds, which is always a challenge. The BDG is being strategic, mindful of supporting areas that have been historically under-supported. There is a strategic pathway to grow the institution and maintain a long-term sustainable budget. Some 'community conversations' about the budget will begin next week.

Ukraine

The Chair referenced a statement emailed to the Mt.A. community on March 3rd, and reiterated that Mount Allison stands in solidarity with the people of Ukraine. He made note of the blue and yellow lighting on the PCCA sign at the edge of campus, and of the Ukraine flag now flying.

Mountie Day

The Chair signaled the 8th annual Mountie Day coming up on March 31st, and he gave a shout out and thank-you to Town Council for their ongoing support of this initiative.

Events

The Chair signaled the continuing President's Speakers Series, Mountie Day on March 31st, the Class of '22 Last Lecture on April 7, and he looks forward to many forthcoming concerts and performances. The Chair noted that an announcement about Convocation is coming next week.

06.03.15 Report from University Planning Committee

The Provost presented a brief oral report drawing attention to the recent external reviews. He has received a formal response from ENGL, which was highly positive, and is awaiting responses from WGST and PHYS/Aviation. His final report will include recommendations from those responses.

07.03.15 Motion from Experiential Learning Committee

Motion (V. St. Pierre / C. Ionescu): That responsibility for approving and registering EXPL credit applications be assigned to the academic units aligned with the topic and supervision of the project.

Motion carried

V. St. Pierre explained that departments and programs would handle EXPL credits using the living document housing the EXPL definitions. This streamlines the process for students to get EXPL credits, it aligns with current practice for Independent Studies, and it has strong student support. J. Hennessy spoke in favour of the motion, noting that 2 years ago in his interview for the Provost position this was the only thing MASU asked him to fix. R. Minocha-McKenney spoke in favour of the motion because it makes EXPL credits more accessible. J.-P. Boudreau said this seems like a positive move that empowers students.

08.03.15 Report from Academic Matters, Regulations

Motion (J. Hennessy / C. Major): That Senate approve the described changes to Section 10 of the academic calendar pertaining to the A-Term (approved as part of the Strategic Academic Plan) and the changes to Section 10.3.6 for the 2022-23 Calendar.

Motion carried

1 opposed

J. Hennessy noted that as part of the Strategic Academic Plan recently passed at Senate, Mt.A. will begin a pilot A-Term in August 2022. Thanks to those who proposed courses. This motion concerns changes to calendar regulation 10.3.6 concerning self-directed learning to accommodate the new A-Term.

D. Hamilton noted that in BIOL they've long done field work in the last week of August as part of courses for the Fall term, and asked whether they can still do this, or whether these will now need to be part of A-Term. J. Hennessy answered that A-Term was never intended to take away flexibility by replacing or interfering with initiatives already working like those in BIOL; so, any Fall courses that presently operate in the late days of August may continue to do so without changes. D. Hamilton asked a follow-up about calendar regulation 10.9.1.b concerning a date by which students have 20% of their total grade marked and returned to them, wondering how this applied in the A-Term. J. Hennessy said it makes sense for instructors to plan to have something graded and returned to students and 20% is the threshold.

Motion (J. Hennessy / C. Major): That Senate approve the 2022-23 Calendar of Events and the provisional 2023-24 Calendar of Events.

**Motion carried
2 abstentions**

09.03.15 Report from Academic Matters, Curriculum and Academic

Motion (N. Farooqi / C. Major): That Senate approve the changes for all programs as described in the report for the 2022-23 Calendar.

Motion carried

J.-P. Boudreau explained that the single motion covered multiple detailed motions set out in the Report, and that we would handle them individually if it was the will of Senate. He thanked N. Farooqi and the committee for all their work.

A. Beverley noted the remarkable work done to develop INDG since its inception in 2019. A. Comfort agreed, noting that at a recent IAC discussion about the INDG minor the Elders were very pleased and stated that something very special is happening at Mt.A. N. Farooqi thanked the committee for being so instrumental and collaborative in getting things done for the Calendar.

10.03.15 Report from Committee on Committees

Motion: (S. Runge / R. Minocha-McKenney) The Committee on Committees moves that Senate acclaim the following nominee to the committees indicated for a term commencing immediately, and ending April 30, 2022.

Honorary Degrees Committee

VACANCY: 1 student - **Emma Penton**

Teaching and Learning Committee

VACANCY: 1 student - Emma Penton

Motion carried

Motion: (S. Runge / V. St. Pierre) The Committee on Committees moves that Senate acclaim the following nominee to the committee indicated for a term commencing immediately, and ending June 30, 2023.

The Committee on Students with Disabilities

VACANCY: 1 faculty member from the Faculty of Social Sciences

Christiana MacDougall

Motion carried

11.03.15 Report from Committee on Emeritus Appointments

R. Moser informed Senate that Dr. Michael Fox will be awarded the title of Professor Emeritus, effective as of its official announcement at Convocation 2022. J.-P. Boudreau drew attention to many accolades and virtual clapping appearing in the Teams windows and chat.

12.03.15 Discover Mt.A

V. St. Pierre congratulated MUSC on many recent events, noting Graham Johnson, Dory Hayley, and Stephen Runge. St. Pierre congratulated Dr. S. Andrews and the EXPL office for securing funding contributing to student experiential learning. St. Pierre noted a 'Back to the 90s' alumni poetry event in ENGL. R. Lapp echoed St. Pierre's plug of the poetry reading, and pasted a link in the Teams chat for the 3rd Faculty of Arts Speakers Series. St. Pierre also mentioned the Tintamarre production 'Mascarade' running March 16th-19th.

J. Tomes congratulated recent MSc graduate Madeline Power on receiving a national graduate student merit award. Tomes plugged the final President's Speakers Series talk with B.K. Chan coming up on March 24th live at the Wu Centre.

N. Farooqi signaled a successful Commerce society trip, an upcoming talk sponsored by the Ron Joyce Centre, and reported on the successful conclusion of one of the tenure track searches in the Social Sciences (ECON).

K. Bell congratulated Mt.A. students on their performance at the Atlantic Canadian Japanese Speech competition held at St. Mary's University on March 12th.

J. Hennessy congratulated Dr. S. Runge and Dr. M-E. Messinger & the faculties of MUSC and MATH/COMP for submitting an excellent proposal for a joint major in Comp.Sci. and Music to MPHEC. Hennessy also thanked L. Hawthorne for first-rate work getting the proposal together.

B. Evans reported that at Town Council's discussion of the upcoming Mountie Day, councillors remarked appreciatively how everyone at Mt.A. was staying the course, wearing masks, helping

remind everyone that we're not alone in acting prudently at this stage of the pandemic. Evans announced an agreement between the town and the university concerning monitoring of the water system.

13.03.15 Other business

There was no other business.

14.03.15 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:13pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robbie Moser
Secretary