

**MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY
MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE
14 October 2009, 3:30 p.m. Tweedie Hall**

Present: R. Campbell, P. Berry, S. McClatchie, J. Ollerhead, C. Parker, H. Patterson, R. Summerby-Murray, J. vanderLeest, K. Ghandi, R. Hudson, A. Irwin, D. Thomas, W. Wilson, S. Runge, K. Bamford, C. Brett, G. Briand, I. Cohen, B. Fleming, T. Holownia, W. Hunt, R. Ireland, M. Lee, R. Majithia, J. Mullen, L. Michaelis, L. Ricker, D. Torrance, M. Walker, B. Walters, E. Wells, A. MacDonald, S. Humphrey, M. Kroeker, A. Steeves, B. Turkel, R. Sargent, S. Carrigan-Kent, E. Herteis, T. Hynes.

Regrets: C. Chapman, B. Gnassi, A. Nurse, D. Bowes, R. Byrne.

01.10.09 Approval of the Agenda

**Motion (Brett/vanderLeest): that Senate adopt the agenda as circulated.
Motion CARRIED.**

02.10.09 Approval of Minutes of 22 September 2009

**Motion (Brett/Torrance): that Senate adopt the minutes as circulated.
After several suggestions for improvements: Motion CARRIED.**

03.10.09 Business Arising from the Minutes

S. McClatchie informed the Senate that he would be meeting with the Ad Hoc Committee on Teaching Evaluation shortly and would report on this meeting at the next meeting of Senate.

04.10.09 Proposed change of meeting date

Motion (McClatchie/Brett): That the February meeting date change from Thursday, February 18th to Tuesday, February 16th.

Motion CARRIED.

05.10.09 Report from the Chair

The Chair invited a new member of Senate; T. Hynes, Director of the Ron Joyce Centre for Business Studies, to introduce himself. He also expressed regrets for G. Jollymore and D. Stewart, both who were unable to attend due to other commitments.

R. Campbell opened by emphasizing that he continues to inform the provincial government of the extent to which New Brunswick universities are falling behind Nova Scotia Universities in public funding support. This relative funding disadvantage is due to both the tuition rebate given to Nova Scotia students for attending Nova Scotia universities, and the freeze in operating grants to New Brunswick Universities. He promised news on the operating grant early in this year.

The enrollment numbers reported to the AAU had been received, but could not be reported as they were still under embargo. R. Campbell commented that Mount Allison's enrollment position was both absolutely and relatively strong. He suggested though, that maintaining this position would be challenging with increased competition by Maritime Universities for declining entering student numbers. The cost-benefit of Active Admissions, a potentially useful high tech approach to recruitment, was still being evaluated.

The president reported that we needed to monitor the impact in the classroom of the present enrollment levels. He promised additional resources for teaching, some of which would be introduced in the second term. The Provost added that just under \$86,000 had recently been allocated to academic departments in response to the large first-year class.

S. McClatchie reported that, as of October 1st, there are 2398 total and 829 new students. Increases that were highlighted included an 18% increase in Commerce and 16% in both Music and in Science. These numbers are based on a new definition (2006) of a full-time student as any student with nine credit hours or more in a given semester. Jon Parsons has also recalculated enrollment data for the last three years using this definition. Using this data, it was estimated that using this definition increases historical student numbers by about 5%. With that adjustment, 2000/1 would be similar in size to this year.

S. McClatchie remarked that the Academic Renewal Document reflected the consensus that had been achieved over the past 18 months, and that there had been ample consultation and opportunity for input during that period. He views the document as an academic blueprint for future action by the Deans. Any actions that require approval by Senate will eventually be brought to Senate through the workings of various committees. He expected that a written report summarizing progress with this renewal would be tabled in the spring. Actions related to learning outcomes would be the responsibility of the Purdy Crawford Centre and challenge for credit will be on the agenda of Faculty Council. Workload issues will have to be addressed jointly with MAFA.

S. Carrigan-Kent commented on the large first and second year classes this year. She asked if there was a plan to build larger venues for these classes.

S. McClatchie responded that the current class sizes would be maintained and that innovative ways would be developed to bring a small class experience to larger classes.

S. Carrigan-Kent suggested that there may be a shortage of some classroom sizes.

S. McClatchie continued by explaining that classroom allocation was a difficult process, but that the implications of larger student numbers will be addressed as they become apparent. He speculated that the university may require additional medium capacity rooms.

06.10.09 Report of the University Planning Committee

S. McClatchie reported that the Planning Committee has met twice since the last meeting of Senate. The committee has received the final reports of the Math and Computer Science and the Political Science department reviews, but it has not received the final

report from the History department. These documents will be made available on a password protected website after the final summary document has been tabled in Senate. The committee is expected to have dealt with appointments for next year by the end of October.

07.10.09 Candidates for Degrees

Motion (vanderLeest/Parker): On the recommendation of Faculty Council and with the addition of one name, that Senate approve the conferring of degrees and certificates on students named on the list.

[The full list appears on an appendix to the file copy of these minutes.]

Motion CARRIED.

08.10.09 Convocation

Under the provisions of the Mount Allison University Act (1994) and in his capacity as Vice-Chancellor, R. Campbell declared Convocation open. Candidates were presented (*in absentia*) by the Secretary of Senate and admitted by the Vice-Chancellor, after which Convocation was closed and the president resumed the chair of Senate.

09.10.10 Report from the Academic Matters Committee

Motion (vanderLeest/Parker): That Senate approve the following change to the Academic Calendar glossary entry for prerequisite:

Academic Calendar - Glossary of Academic Terms

Current Definition

A course or combination of courses that must be completed before registration in another course is permitted. Note: Students must obtain a grade of at least C- in all courses used to fulfill prerequisite requirements. Otherwise written permission of the appropriate Department or Program Co-ordinator must be obtained

Proposed Revised Definition

Many courses require knowledge of material covered in other courses to ensure that a student has the background necessary to complete the course successfully. A prerequisite states the requirement that must be completed or waived before registration in a course is permitted. This requirement may consist of one or both of the following:

- a) having a certain registration status (i.e. in a particular program or having a specified standing); or**
- b) having earned credit for a course or combination of courses. Students must obtain a grade of at least C- in each course used to fulfill this requirement.**

NOTE: A student who does not have the stated prerequisite must receive written permission from the appropriate Department Head or Program Director to waive the requirement.

And that it approve the following principles to be used in review of existing prerequisites:

Principles to be used in review of existing prerequisites:

- **For any specific course to be listed as a prerequisite, the knowledge of material covered in the prerequisite must be essential for success in the second course**
- **1000 level courses should either have no prerequisite or have one three credit course as a prerequisite; if a department or program feels more prerequisites are required it should justify the need for this**
- **For any 2000 or 3000 level course that currently has more than six credits listed in prerequisites the department or program should examine closely how necessary the knowledge is from all the courses listed**
- **For any 4000 level course that currently has more than nine credits listed in the prerequisites the department or program should examine closely how necessary the knowledge is from all the courses listed**
- **For any courses that list registration in a program or a certain standing as a prerequisite the department or program should examine the reasons for these restrictions and should justify maintaining them**

J. vanderLeest explained that the change proposed to the glossary definition of a prerequisite was to inform students and the second part of the report was to provide guidelines to Dean and departments as they worked through their review of prerequisites.

R. Hudson commented that currently Department Heads waive prerequisites, but in many departments faculty members also administer prerequisites, a practice inconsistent with the current academic calendar. He was unsure what was meant by the assertion in the document that for courses with prerequisites, the knowledge of material in prerequisite courses must be necessary for the successful completion of the course. This may be clear for some courses, but not for others. Also unclear was whether this applied to hidden prerequisites.

J. vanderLeest responded that hidden prerequisites would be irrelevant if the prerequisite structure was properly set.

C. Brett asked if the intention of this policy that the department would be required to look at the explicit prerequisites or at implicit prerequisites as well

J. vanderLeest explained that these principles will guide the deans and department in their review. This review of prerequisites is required of all departments as there may be prerequisites that present artificial hurdles to students.

S. McClatchie added that the welfare of the students is the main focus of this review

L. Michaelis inquired if department would have to provide a justification for existing prerequisites with the department, or to the Deans. It was not clear to whom the justification had to be made.

J. vanderLeest replied that departments had to provide justification among themselves and to the Deans.

S. McClatchie added that this was part of the curriculum review, and that departments did not have to report to Senate on their review of prerequisites.

Motion CARRIED.

Motion (vanderLeest/Parker): That the deletion of academic regulation 6.15.5 – Supplemental Examinations be approved.

R, Summerby-Murray pointed out that the FE notation in calendar (6.11.3) will eventually have to be changed.

Motion CARRIED.

10.10.09 Report from the Committee on Committees (Cohen/Brett): That Neils Anthonisen be appointed to the committee reviewing the Department of Continuous Learning.

Motion CARRIED.

11.10.09 Report of the Late Granting of Degrees Committee (C. Parker)

12.10.09 Report of the Admissions & Readmissions Committee (C. Parker)

13.10.09 Report of the Readmissions Appeals Committee (P. Berry)

The three reports above were received without question or comment.

14.10.09 Report of the Committee on Emeriti Appointments (P. Berry)

P. Berry gave a short report from the Committee and promised to circulate the report with the minutes of the meeting.

15.10.09 Other Business

There was no other business

16.10.09 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Berry,
Secretary