

**MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY
MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE
22 September 2009, 2:30 p.m. Tweedie Hall**

Present: R. Campbell, P. Berry, D. Greenwood, B. Gnassi, S. McClatchie, J. Ollerhead, C. Parker, H. Patterson, R. Summerby-Murray, J. vanderLeest, K. Ghandi, R. Hudson, A. Irwin, D. Thomas, W. Wilson, O. Griffiths, S. Runge, K. Bamford, C. Brett, G. Briand, R. Edwards, R. Ireland, M. Lee, R. Majithia, J. Mullen, L. Michaelis, A. Nurse, L. Ricker, D. Torrance, E. Koenig, B. Walters, E. Wells, D. Bowes, S. Humphrey, M. Kroeker, A. Steeves, B. Turkel, N. Walker, R. Bryne, S. Carrigan-Kent, M. Currie, E. Herteis, G. Jollymore, D. Stewart.

Regrets: C. Chapman, I. Cohen, B. Fleming, T. Holownia, W. Hunt.

01.09.22 Welcome and Introductions of Senators

After introductory remarks from the Chair, the senators present were invited to make self-introductions.

02.09.22 Approval of the Agenda

Motion (Brett/Nurse): that Senate adopt the Agenda as circulated.

Motion CARRIED.

03.09.22 Approval of the Minutes of 18 March 2009

Motion (Brett/Nurse): that Senate adopt the Minutes of 18 March 2009 as circulated.

Motion CARRIED.

04.09.22 Business Arising from the Minutes

R. Campbell reported that the Board approved the budget at the May meeting. Part of Mount Allison's share of the province's Action Plan for Post-Secondary Education did make it into operations, and funds from the federal Knowledge Infrastructure Program were received and spent this summer. In a conversation with the premier, regarding the former ABU and now Crandall University, the president expressed the University's opposition to public funding being given to a private university. External Relations (now University Advancement) had completed its move to Centennial hall.

A. Nurse inquired if there was any sense that the public funding to ABU was going to continue. R. Campbell replied that it was his sense that these were capital development grants and that nothing has been allocated from the PSE budget for operations. The Premier did not reply on the possibility of future operating grants to Crandall from PSE funding.

05.09.22 Report from the Chair

R. Campbell reported that it has been a busy summer with much activity on campus. A successful recruiting effort has led to a slightly higher than expected level of first year students. This required the development of extra residence capacity and more services for students living in residence. The improved recruiting effort means that, despite no change in government support for the operating budget and the poor performance of our investments, the revenue situation is good.

The University is in good shape, maintaining and improving services in a number of areas. This is due to the improved recruiting effort and prudent spending decisions.

The enrollment is now back to a size considered normal in late 90's. The President did not see enrollments reaching 3000 students, but the challenge is to find an optimal size for our resources and capacity.

Two of the 4 presidential objectives for the upcoming year are the development of financially sustainable operating and capital budgets. The other two are to increase academic quality and external funding. The political situation includes a provincial election in one year and the growing debt situation. R. Campbell reported that he has received some assurance that the operating grant from the province will not be cut, and that tuition will be unfrozen. These developments, combined with the future of federal transfers to the province, make it important to maintain our external fundraising support.

This has been a busy spring and summer with a number of new administrative appointments. Both the President and the Vice President are in the 4th year of their appointments, and this will result in a review of the former during the fall and the latter in the winter.

The Vice President Academic in his remarks thanked Department Heads and those responsible for planning over the summer. Indications are that our start up was better than usual. The university has received positive external reports of the Animal Care Committee and the Research Ethics Board from their external counterparts. There was also mention of the NB Innovation Council meeting on campus with professors, the Learning Day, Research Day, orientation activities and Andrew Nurse's commencement address. He thanked the VP International and Student Affairs and the Admissions Department for their efforts that resulted in first year number in the 800 to 850 range. The admissions standards question is still to be examined but the entering average of 84.6 compares favourably to past years.

The Vice President Administration reported the year end statements from last year have been approved and will soon be up on the web. The Anchorage has not yet been changed into a residence as it would have been more expensive than originally expected. Over the past few years the Mt. A. residence system has shrunk, so that it was necessary to add what is the equivalent of another Campbell Hall through a number of measures. The renewal project on wireless system is completed and is being monitored to ensure expected improvements. The capital improvements that have been carried out over the summer, some of which will continue this year, have gone very well.

The Vice President University Advancement reported that the move to Centennial Hall was complete. The name of the department has been changed to University Advancement to reflect the increased responsibilities for student recruitment and marketing and communications.

The new Director of Marketing and Communications, Tony Frost, will make the rounds of the campus this term. Jump Mount Allison is edging up to 71 million and will wrap up by 2011 (and not in 5 more years as originally planned).

The Chair invited questions.

R. Hudson asked when we were at 2300 students. S. McClatchie responded that it was in 2001/2.

M. Currie asked about the impact on the student experience resulting from the enrollment increase. The President replied that we have to track the impact of this on class size, and to the extent that there are consequences, we will react. Questions on the impact are valid but the flip side of low enrollment of 600 entering students on this university would be unsustainable.

The Vice President Academic added that we cannot grow more without increasing faculty complement.

B. Walters commented that we need to be better prepared to respond to rising enrolments. We are scrambling to address some of these problems in third week of classes and this could have been done earlier.

S. McClatchie replied that the Deans were constantly monitoring the situation over the summer and making adjustments, opening up sections and adding stipends. Further, predicting final registration is always somewhat unpredictable. The Vice President Student Affairs is looking for ways that we can predict student enrollments earlier.

06.09.22 Proposed change of meeting date from Thursday, November 12th to Tuesday, November 10th

Motion (Brett/Ireland): That the meeting date change from Thursday, November 12th to Tuesday, November 10th.

Motion CARRIED.

07.09.22 Report from the Committee on University Planning

S. McClatchie reported that the planning committee had meet since the last senate meeting with each of the Heads of the departments that were under review last year. The Committee has had one meeting this academic year. It formed three subcommittees, one for each faculty to take a look at departmental budgets and return to the Planning Committee with recommendations.

L. Michaelis requested more information on the external reviews.

S. McClatchie replied that the reviews had been presented to the delegate of Senate, the Planning Committee, and that summaries would be posted on the web once the departments have had a chance to respond. He had no objection to circulating the reviews to members of senate should they be required for information purposes.

R. Campbell suggest that the Provost could have the Planning Committee draft a motion for the next meeting on the circulation of the reviews that would be consistent with guidelines Senate has adopted for these reviews.

S. McClatchie emphasized that it was not the intention of the Planning Committee to sit on these documents, and that any faculty member or student should have access to these documents.

R. Hudson inquired as to why the sabbatical replacements were omitted from the list of appointments circulated at the University assembly this year.

S. McClatchie replied that it was because these appointments are not part of the ongoing or permanent complement. He was willing to share this information, which is in the records of the Planning Committee.

08.09.22 Report from the Committee on Committees

Motion (Brett/Ireland): That the Senate appoint Amanda Cockshutt, Diana Hamilton, and David Lieske to fill vacancies on the Graduate Studies Committee for the term ending June 2012, Shauna McCabe to fill the vacancy on the Research Research and Creative Activity Committee for the term ending June 2012.

Motion CARRIED.

Motion (Brett/Ireland): That the Senate appoint the following students to serve for the term 2009-2010: on the University Planning Committee: Sarah Carrigan-Kent and Alex MacDonald, and on the Teaching and Learning Committee: Ashley Steeves and Nathan Walker.

Motion CARRIED.

Motion (Brett/Ollerhead): That Senate approve the following amendments (in bold type) due to administrative changes:

The Committee on Students with Disabilities (8 members)

4 *ex-officio* members

An Academic Dean

The Director of the Meighen Centre (Chair)

~~The Dean of Students~~ **The Director of Student Life**

The Associate Registrar, ~~Enrolment Services~~ **Recruitment and Admissions**

The University Student Governance Committee (7 members)

1 *ex-officio* member

~~The Dean of Students~~ (chair) **Vice-President, International & Student Affairs**

Motion CARRIED.

09.09.22 Report from the Committee on Continuous Learning

S. McClatchie advised Senate on the upcoming review of Continuous Learning as it will depart slightly from other reviews. The details are in the report to Senate. He emphasized that his review was upon the advice of the Director of Continuous Learning and with her support.

L. Michealis asked why there was only one reviewer.

S. McClatchie replied that this was economical, the reviewer was known to him, and he was confident that she would write a good report. An internal review, led by R. Summerby-Murray and E. Herteis, to be initiated upon receipt of the external report, will have broader representation.

10.09.22 Report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Student Evaluation of Teaching

Motion (McClatchie/Ollerhead): Be it resolved that the Policy on the Evaluation of Teaching be approved.

S. McClatchie explained that there were two documents circulated to Senate, a discussion paper, and the policy that Senate is being asked to approve. The committee tried to make it a goals and principles policy that was based on best practices and research.

S. Carrigan-Kent declared that the students supported this policy but would be happier if the student evaluation of teaching will be integrated into the collective agreement.

B. Walters endorsed the previous comments. He thought it may not be possible to use the evaluations for collective agreement purposes, but he maintained that they should be used for teaching awards.

M. Currie endorsed B. Walter's comments.

A. Nurse pointed out that there were other evaluation mechanisms. He wondered why the evaluations were confidential.

S. McClatchie replied that this was due to the power differential and other concerns, and that this was the practice everywhere.

E. Herteis added that some universities have a policy that student written comments are not part of the record if not signed.

L. Michaelis asked who would decide which malicious comments would be destroyed and expressed concerns with a number of the report's recommendations.

R. Hudson commented that there were not enough specifics in the policy.

R. Ireland felt the policy should be adopted and suggested that it could be left to the Committee on Teaching and Learning to monitor its implementation.

L. Michaelis expressed the view that Senate should vote on the separate sections of the policy.

Motion (Michaelis/Thomas): That the policy be referred back to the Ad Hoc Committee on Student Evaluation of Teaching with the direction to provide more specific recommendations for Senate to consider.

The Chair gave a ruling on the motion and over the objection of the mover it was changed to:

That the policy be referred back to the Ad Hoc Committee on Student Evaluation of Teaching.

Motion DEFEATED.

R. Majithia expressed concerns about the quantification of teaching. Following his, and a few more comments, a vote was taken on the original motion.

Motion CARRIED .

11.09.22 Committee Annual Reports

The Senate received reports (attached) from the Committee on Teaching and Learning and Faculty Council. There were not any questions.

12.09.22 Other Business

There was no other business.

13.09.22 Adjournment

came at 4:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Berry,
Secretary