

MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY
MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

November 2, 2021, 4:00pm
via Microsoft Teams

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

Observers: L. Hawthorne, G. Sandala

Regrets: A. Lepage

01.11.2 Land Acknowledgement

J.-P. Boudreau noted that even as our Senate meeting takes place virtually, it depends on unceded Mi'kmi'aq land. He thanked Senators for making efforts to embody Indigenous ways of seeing, doing, and knowing.

02.11.2 Approval of agenda

Motion (J. Hennessy/V. St. Pierre): that Senate adopt the agenda as presented.

Motion carried

03.11.2 Approval of the minutes (12 October, 2021)

J-P. Boudreau noted an error concerning fully vaccinated staff. He noted that the given number (558) should have been 504, and that this was a mistake reporting number reported vaccinated and number verified. J-P. Boudreau also noted that the minutes should properly reflect that J. Kalyn serenaded Senate on bass clarinet during a vote.

Motion (R. Minocha-McKenney/V. St. Pierre): that Senate adopt the minutes of the meeting of 12 October, 2021 as amended.

Motion carried

04.11.2 Business arising from the minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

05.11.2 Chair's remarks

COVID-19

The Chair noted that the provincial circuit-breaker measures continue and will be reviewed on Friday, November 5th. The case numbers are presently trending down. The Mount Allison community continues to do its part, and the Chair thanked everyone for compliance. The Chair reported a 98% overall vaccination rate among students and staff. There are 519 fully vaccinated faculty and staff (up from 504). There are 2192 fully vaccinated students (up from 2102). There is only 1 student unaccounted for, and that student will receive a registered letter today. A small number of tests continues to be conducted twice weekly, and so far, all results are negative. The Chair encouraged everyone to get some rapid tests, and noted that Horizon Health distributes these on Tuesdays at the Civic Centre. To date there have been 554 seasonal flu shots administered on campus, and walk-in appointments are still available. Hats off to VP A. Comfort, to Matt Maston, Cindy Crossman, Robert Inglis & the COVID Committee, to the Board of Regents' ad hoc Health committee, and to everyone working in the community to ensure safe and orderly roll out of these health services for staff and students.

Mid-Semester

As we move past the mid-semester mark and approach Reading Week (November 8-12), this is a good time for a check-in with everyone on how the semester is going. The Senate agenda committee has added item #8 to the present meeting to allow for general discussion of course evaluations and Winter course delivery. The Chair noted an email communication to faculty from the Provost earlier today concerning a timeline to make changes Winter course delivery. (See item 8.)

Events

The Chair drew attention to many events, including: a Virtual Book launch on November 4 for Renée Belliveau's *The Sound of Fire*; a public presentation, jointly hosted by the Department of Geography and Environment, and the Atlantic Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers on November 5 entitled "How to Stop Global Warming: Earth's Carbon Cycle and the Necessity of Net-Zero Emissions"; The University Remembrance Day Ceremony to be live-streamed on FB on November 11; the President's Speaker Series welcomes Dr. David Suzuki (virtually, with option for campus attendance in person) on November 18; the Mount Allison Choral Society and Elliott Chorale present "Coming Home for Christmas", scheduled for Dec. 5th at Convocation Hall. The Chair noted the many recent successes of student athletic clubs, notably including Football, Soccer, Swimming, Hockey, Volleyball, Basketball, Cross Country, and Badminton. The Chair noted that a significant percentage (12%) of Mt.A. students identify as student athletes, and he wanted to give them a proper shout out, including kudos to Athletic Director Pierre Arseneault and the entire coaching and athletic staff. The Chair noted that the

President's Budget Advisory Committee will be kicking off its budget process for 2022-23, and he would say more soon. Finally, the Chair really wanted to give a huge musical shout out to Dr. James Kalyn for his musical interludes during Senate voting.

J. Kalyn asked whether there would be an in-person services for Remembrance Day. The Chair replied that there would be a hybrid, streamed event as noted, but not the traditional event in Convocation Hall. B. Evans noted that there would be a march from the Legion to Memorial Park on the morning of November 11th.

There was no further discussion.

06.11.2 Report from University Planning Committee

J. Hennessy noted his standing engagement to report at each Senate meeting, and wished his musical performance career had been this regular. The UPC hasn't met since the last report at the October Senate meeting, and work continues for some units on securing authorizations and preparing to begin searches for positions given high-priority ranking. Digital site visits for those units undergoing external review (ENGL, PHYS including Aviation, and WGST) are complete, and reviewer reports are due by the end of November. The UPC will discuss the in-development Strategic Academic Plan at its November 15 meeting; the Provost will discuss it with everyone at the November 24 Faculty Council meeting. He noted it is ambitious, with 70 different recommendations of various sorts. The Provost thanked all faculty, staff, and students for their excellent engagement in the development process so far. The Chair thanked the Provost, the UPC, and the ad hoc Strategic Plan committees for their work.

07.11.2 Report from Academic Matters, Curriculum and Academic

Motion: (N. Farooqi/V. St.Pierre) The Academic Matters, Curriculum and Academic Committee moves that Senate approve the new Certificate in Arts Administration as described in the report for the 2022-23 academic calendar.

Motion carried

J. Hennessy noted that the certificate looks very good and congratulated the committee. J-P. Boudreau repeated these remarks and expressed his thanks.

08.11.2 Discussion: Course evaluations in Fall and Course delivery in Winter

The Chair invited J. Hennessy to comment on the email sent to faculty concerning course delivery for Winter. The Provost noted that Senator Levesque proposed course evaluations and Winter course delivery as items for discussion. Commenting on his email, the Provost indicated that Faculty wishing to change their planned mode of delivery for Winter courses should please inform their head or program directors and the Registrar's Office by November 16. This allows people freedom to meet changing needs in an always-changing situation, and it ensures that

students are informed in time to make clear decisions about their courses for next term. The Provost then invited open discussion on this and on the other item of course evaluations.

The Chair invited M. Levesque to speak, who said his department members thought it important that faculty should have a choice for delivery and expressed his satisfaction with the announced window for change of mode of delivery. To the item of student course evaluations, Levesque said his department believed it should be optional, consistent with ad hoc policy in recent years for courses using online delivery. The Chair thanked M. Levesque for his genial expression of these points, and noted that course evaluations are an important way to give students voice. The Provost replied that the current plan is to have paper-based evaluations for courses in which this is possible, and to have online courses be unevaluated, and that this plan is in flux during consultations with the Deans, with MAFA, and pending input here at Senate. He encouraged Faculty teaching online who want to provide students with a forum for evaluations to contact the Helpdesk and request the survey be posted to the course Moodle page.

R. Minocha-McKenney said course evaluations give students a valuable opportunity to give feedback and to express how they experienced a course, and to describe how the faculty member engaged. As procedure for various modes of delivery settle to a new normal, Minocha-McKenney said students want due consideration for how evaluations can be conducted in all modes. Minocha-McKenney expressed concern at having heard from some students that their course was advertised as online synchronous, but then moved to have some in-person elements, and, that a course was advertised as in-person, but switched to online during the term. Minocha-McKenney noted that a course of his own was advertised in person and then put online with no further communication about when or whether it would return to in person. Minocha-McKenney said students need consistency in advertised and actual modes of delivery. The Chair thanked Minocha-McKenney for clearly-expressed concerns.

A. Comfort brought attention to a number of international students currently studying remotely who are planning to come to campus in January. They have already selected their courses, arranged travel VISAs and other onerous documentation. Comfort noted that if the mode of delivery for their courses changes it not be last-minute. The Chair thanked Comfort for speaking on behalf of those valued students who are not here today.

A. Kreuger reiterated Minocha-McKenney's concern to have consistency of delivery during a term, and noted a concern that some instructors do not wear masks to deliver lectures in person even after the university adopted policy to this effect. Kreuger noted her own difficulty presenting in class while wearing a mask, but stressed that faculty need to abide by the regulations. B. Blakney expanded on Minocha-McKenney's and Kreuger's concern to have adequate notice of change of course delivery so students could have more guidance. The Chair thanked Kreuger and Blakney for cogent remarks and for giving an important voice to students.

The Provost replied to the concerns by reiterating that faculty have until November 16 to make changes to their courses' mode of delivery. He reminded Senate that faculty like many other have diverse and changing living circumstances exacerbated by the pandemic, citing school closures and living with immunocompromised individual. He encouraged frequent open communication between faculty and students about attendance, mode of delivery, for faculty to

be accommodating, for students to be understanding, and for everyone to be patient. The Provost acknowledged P. Berry's chat comment, noting that missed final exams follow regulation 10.8.4.

09.11.2 Report from Committee on Committees

S. Runge noted that the report consists of motions to staff committees for the current AY.

Motion: (S. Runge/V. St. Pierre) The Committee on Committees moves that Senate acclaim the following nominees to the committees indicated for a term commencing immediately, and ending June 30, 2024, or until a sabbatical or other leave.

Academic Matters (Regulations) Committee:

VACANCY: 1 faculty member from the Faculty of Social Sciences

Rachelle Pascoe Deslauriers

Teaching and Learning Committee:

VACANCY: 1 faculty member from the Faculty of Arts

Owen Griffiths

Motion carried

The Chair thanked everyone for their service commitments.

10.11.2 Discover Mt.A

J-P. Boudreau invited any announcements of noteworthy events and achievements in the Mount Allison community.

J. Tomes noted the title of Dr. David Suzuki's virtual talk on November 18 is "We boast of our intelligence. How the hell did we get into this mess?"

V. St. Pierre gave a shout out to Theatre and Drama for the fabulous show 'A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder', and noted it was a harbinger of things to come. J-P. Boudreau added a plug for the upcoming production from Garnet and Gold. V. St. Pierre also noted recent academic conferences in Canadian Studies and in Philosophy, and plugged the great work done by student Kaitlyn Keleher on social media for the Faculty of Arts.

N. Farooqi signaled the Hon. Dominic LeBlanc would participate virtually in Mario Levesque's public policy course, and J-P. Boudreau expressed interest in attending.

A. Kreuger drew attention to Mt.A's Model UN conference on November 12-14th, noting the keynote speaker is Laura White.

R. Minocha-McKenney thanked Rachelle Pascoe Deslauriers for integrated learning coursework concerning quality assessment of student employment as teaching assistants and in other faculty support roles.

13.10.12 Other business

There was no other business.

14.10.12 Adjournment

The Chair thanked everyone for continued engagement, especially our students. The meeting adjourned at 5:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robbie Moser
Secretary