MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY
MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

December 7, 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, D. Hamilton, L-D. Hamilton, M. Hamilton, J. Hennessy (Vice-Chair), R. Inglis, C. Ionescu, K. Johnston, D. Keeping, S. Keller, L. Kern, A. Koval, A. Kreuger, R. Lapp, A. Lepage, 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, C. Cash

Regrets: J. Kalyn

01.12.7 Land Acknowledgement

J-P. Boudreau welcomed everyone to the last Fall meeting of Senate. He noted that even as Senate is meeting virtually, it always takes place in the unceded territory of Mi'kma'ki. He said Mount Allison aims to respect Indigenous ways of seeing, knowing, and doing, and to extend these into our communities.

02.12.7 Approval of agenda

Motion (B. Robertson/M. Litvak): that Senate adopt the agenda as presented.

Motion carried

03.12.7 Approval of the minutes (2 November, 2021)

Motion (N. Farooqi/B. Blakney): that Senate adopt the minutes of the meeting of 2 November, 2021 as presented.

Motion carried

04.12.7 Business arising from the minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

05.12.7 Chair's remarks

COVID-19

The Chair noted that cases continue to rise in the province. He reminded Senate that the President's Cabinet team meets every Tuesday and COVID updates are a standing agenda item. Presently there are 530 fully vaccinated faculty & staff (up from 519). There are 2190 fully vaccinated students (up from 2192). The Chair thanked the community for their compliance and diligence, acknowledging that engaging in classes and meetings while masked is not easy. Presently, 23 students and 14 members of faculty & staff are being monitored. So far there are no new presumptive positive cases. Flu vaccination clinics continue to operate on campus, and 701 flu shots have been administered to date. COVID booster shots are available now in Sackville, and the Chair is getting a booster this coming Thursday. The Chair urged everyone to stay vigilant and practice good COVID hygiene over the holiday.

Enrollment

Prospective enrollment numbers are trending in a positive direction. The HLTH program is getting good uptake so far from prospective students, and the Chair is looking forward to seeing it grow. The Chair thanked all of the Academic Matters Committee, the Academic Planning Committee, the Heads, and the Deans for their role in program development to attract and retain students. The Chair thanked current students for coming and for staying, and for being great ambassadors for Mount Allison.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion

The Chair drew attention to three recent important events: National Addictions Awareness Week (Nov. 21-27), Transgender Awareness Week (Nov. 13-19), and the National Day of Remembrance and Action for Violence Against Women (Dec. 6). The Chair noted that two new flagpoles are being installed in front of the University Chapel to fly more ceremonial flags (to name just a few, e.g., Pride, Transgender, Pan-African, Every Child Matters). The Chair reported that Mount Allison will be a signatory on the recently-completed Scarborough Charter on Anti-Black Racism and Black Inclusion in Canadian Higher Education. A compatible and comparable document on equity and inclusion for the Mount Allison community in particular is forthcoming from the President's Task Force on EDI and Racism.

Events & Notes

The Chair drew attention to some noteworthy upcoming events. (1) The university budget development group has had its first committee meeting and will soon solicit input and feedback from the broader campus community as it drafts a new budget. (2) Students will be attending a rally tomorrow (Dec. 8) in support of staff and patients at the Sackville Memorial Hospital facing continued cuts to operating hours. The Chair stressed that SMH is an integral part of our Sackville community, including Dorchester and Port Elgin. We need a strong and vibrant hospital and Mount Allison is a grateful beneficiary of its health services. J.-P. Boudreau indicated that A. Comfort sits on the Action Committee for SMH. The Chair will write to the

New Brunswick Premier and the Health Minister indicating Mount Allison stands partnered with the Town of Sackville in support of the hospital. (3) Classes end tomorrow, and the Chair wished good luck on exams to students. 'Cookies and Cram' sessions are on offer during the exam period. The President and MASU President will cruise around campus in the 'MtA Flame' golf cart distributing cookies, cider, and hot chocolate. The Chair thanked Charlie Burke for help organizing this initiative. (4) Consultation has begun for hiring a new University Librarian.

06.12.7 Report from University Planning Committee

J. Hennessy indicated that the UPC met twice since the last Senate meeting and there are two main items to report. First, the committee continues to review the draft of the new Strategic Academic Plan. The Provost has brought the latest drafts to Faculty Council for discussion. Second, an external review report has been received for ENGL, and the Provost is currently waiting on review reports for WGST and for PHYS including Aviation. The Provost plans to meet with the Deans of the programs to discuss the reports and recommendations. He thanked everyone involved in the process, especially the internal reviewers, K. Bamford, R. Moser, and J. Kurek.

07.12.7 Report from Academic Matters, Curriculum and Academic

Motion (N. Farooqi /V. St. Pierre): That Senate approve for the 2022-23 Academic Calendar the course changes to the Minor in Astronomy as described in the report to Senate, December 7, 2021.

Motion carried

Motion (N. Farooqi /V. St. Pierre): That Senate approve for the 2022-23 Academic Calendar the creation of two new courses in History as described in the report to Senate, December 7, 2021.

J. Hennessy commended HIST for the work creating these courses and lauded their strong 5-year plan.

Motion carried

Motion (N. Farooqi /V. St. Pierre): That Senate approve for the 2022-23 Academic Calendar the addition of a course to the Minor in Drama as described in the report to Senate, December 7, 2021.

Motion carried

Motion (N. Farooqi /D. Hamilton): That Senate approve for the 2022-23 Academic Calendar the changes in course descriptions and prerequisites for Biology as described in the report to Senate, December 7, 2021.

Motion carried

Motion (N. Farooqi /M. Hamilton): That Senate approve for the 2022-23 Academic Calendar the changes in course deletion, course descriptions, program descriptions, and prerequisites for Mathematics and Computer Science as described in the report to Senate, December 7, 2021.

Motion carried

N. Farooqi thanked everyone for their work on the new program changes. J. Hennessy thanked the Academic Matters committee.

08.12.7 Report from Committee on Committees

S. Runge noted that the report consists of a motion 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 January 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2024, or until a sabbatical or other leave.

The Academic Integrity Committee:
Corrine Cash
Fabrizio Antonelli (alternate)

The Graduate Studies Committee:
Ralf Bruening (alternate)

Motion carried

09.12.7 Acclamation to the Committee on Committees

Motion (R. Moser/ S. Runge): That the following Senator be acclaimed to the Committee on Committees with a term commencing immediately and ending June 30, 2024.

David Fleming

Motion carried

10.12.7 Discover Mt.A

J-P. Boudreau thanked all student clubs, societies, athletic teams for all they do to build a collegial experience on campus. He invited announcements of events and achievements at the end of a long semester.

N. Farooqi congratulated J. Ollerhead for securing funding from the New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund to measure 15 years of carbon accumulation in regional salt marshes. Farooqi congratulated R. Pascoe-Deslauriers and students in the HR Management course for drafting a survey on fairness and transparency for student research support workers. Farooqi congratulated Ben Phillips of GENV for identifying the oldest tree in the Maritimes at 532 years. J.-P. Boudreau congratulated everyone.

B. Evans thanked R. Inglis for an excellent presentation at Town Council on the university budget drafting process and for highlighting the importance of the town to the university and the university to the town. Evans reiterated the SMH rally and encouraged people to come. J.-P. Boudreau stressed the importance of avoiding the need for students and community members to expect ambulance rides to Moncton.

M. Levesque indicated that consulting across the university has begun to develop a mentorship program for POLS/IR in which senior students would mentor more junior students. J.-P. Boudreau commented that this sounds like a great initiative.

A. Comfort drew attention to the Food Bank initiative on campus located in the Mawita'mkw gathering space on the first floor of the Wallace McCain Student Centre. Comfort also directed Senators to contact Adam Christie for information about nominating students for the 3M Student Fellow awards. J-P. Boudreau thanked A. Comfort.

11.12.7 Other business

There was no other business.

12.12.7 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robbie Moser
Secretary