

MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY
MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

October 10, 2023, 4:00pm
Windsor Grand Room & Microsoft Teams (hybrid format)

Present: N. Anthonisen, C. Brett (Secretary), P. Brown, B. Clayton, A. Comfort, J. Devine, S. Dewolfe, B. Evans, D. Fleming, C. Forstall, A. Francis, L. Garnett, D. Hamilton, M. Hamilton, O. Hart, M. Hashemi, K. Hele, D. Hornidge, R. Inglis, C. Ionescu, K. Johnston, L. Landon, Y. Ma, C. MacDougall, R. MacKinnon (Chair), R. Majithia, C. Major, I. McCardle, V. Meli, L. Michaelis, R. Minocha-McKenney, G. Ouelette, T. Reiffenstein, R. Rubin, S. Runge, S. Scott, V. St. Pierre (Vice-Chair), E. Steuter, J. Tomes, N. Vogan, B. Walters, W. Wilson

Guests: L. Decker Hawthorne

Regrets: R. Bruening, A. Fancy, B. Jewett, B. Robertson

01.10.10 Territorial Acknowledgement

R. MacKinnon read the official territorial acknowledgment written by Elders and the Indigenous Advisory Circle 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.

02.10.10 Approval of agenda

Motion (V. St. Pierre / R. Minocha-McKenney): that Senate adopt the agenda as presented.
Motion carried

L. Michaelis asked that Senators introduce themselves, and they did so.

- 03.10.10 Consent Agenda (V. St. Pierre/ J. Tomes)
- a. Approval of the minutes (September 12, 2023)
 - b. Discover Mount Allison

Approved without discussion

04.10.10 Business arising from the minutes

J. Devine asked whether the data on academic suspensions and academic dishonesty he had requested during the September meeting was ready. J. Tomes replied that she had asked for reports, which are in preparation but not yet ready.

05.10.10 Chair's remarks

R. MacKinnon noted that he getting to know Mount Allison, having attended many events and meetings. Among others, he highlighted meeting with faculty, students, and other university presidents from the Atlantic Association of Universities. He informed Senate that he also participated in events associated with Indigenous Week, Shinerama, and the university's Homecoming.

The president then informed Senate that updated enrollment counts show 2346 students in total, including 898 in residences and 973 with meal plans. The enrollment numbers exceed a threshold for additional funding from the Government of New Brunswick.

The chair stated that he finds working with the Vice Presidents productive, and that he is looking forward to a meeting of the Board of Regents on October 20.

06.10.10 Candidates for Degrees – October Graduation

Motion (V. St. Pierre/R. Rubin): that Senate move *in camera* for the purpose of considering candidates for degrees.

Motion Carried

Senate considered candidates for degrees *in camera*.

07.10.10 Fall Convocation

R. MacKinnon declared Convocation open. As Vice-Chancellor, he then conferred degrees *in absentia* to the candidates whom Senate had approved. The president then declared Convocation closed.

08.10.10 Report from University Planning Committee

V. St. Pierre reported that the committee has considered requests for faculty positions and met with the Heads of departments requesting new faculty members. The committee has prepared its ranking of the proposals but awaits word on available funds before reporting the list to Senate.

The provost indicated that the committee would submit a written report to Senate in November, and also thanked the members of the committee for good discussions on contentious topics.

09.10.10 Report from Committee on Committees

Motion (S. Runge/ C. Ionescu): The Committee on Committees moves that Senate acclaim the following students to the following Senate Committees for terms beginning immediately and ending April 30, 2024:

The Academic Appeals Committee

Cailean Clements

The Academic Information Technology Committee

Cole Sinclair

Isaac McCardle

The Academic Integrity Committee

Spencer Scott

Olivia Hart (alternate)

The Committee on Emeriti Appointments

Cole Sinclair

The Graduation Review Committee

Cole Sinclair

The Honorary Degrees Committee

Spencer Scott

Motion carried

10.10.10 Discussion of Honorary Degrees

R. MacKinnon informed Senate of his intention to form a subcommittee of the Honorary Degrees Committee to review the criteria for awarding honorary degrees. In response to questions by L. Michaelis, he noted that the subcommittee would be made up entirely of members of the Honorary Degrees Committee and that there is as yet no timeline for the review. In particular, the president could not confirm that the review would be completed this year. The president stated a preference for doing the review well rather than quickly.

J. Devine, a member of the Honorary Degrees Committee, welcomed the review and asked that the review also include consideration of a policy for rescinding honorary degrees. R. MacKinnon responded that the review will also consider the issue of rescinding degrees.

K. Johnston welcomed the policy review and asked about plans for honorary degrees at the May 2024 Convocation. R. MacKinnon answered that there are currently Senate-approved nominees in the pipeline and that the Honorary Degrees Committee may bring more names to Senate under the current policy. K. Johnston then asked whether it would be possible to revisit the current pool of candidates or to use an interim process for the upcoming year. The president noted that the committee may decide to submit the current pool to extra vetting before naming recipients for 2024. On the other hand, the chair noted that the committee has not met this year and he does not want to speak on its behalf until the full committee has addressed the issue. T. Reiffenstein argued that Senate should respect the decisions of previous senates on the granting of degrees. M. Hamilton asked that any interim process result in a roster of honorary graduates that would do no harm to the university's reputation.

L. Michaelis noted that senators are not aware of who is in the pool of potential recipients for 2024, nor of the process by which recipients are selected from this pool. She wondered if Senate could give guidance on this final step of process. R. MacKinnon noted that it is standard practice for the President to make final determination on recipients of honorary degrees. He said that we would like to consult with the Honorary Degrees Committee on steps for the upcoming year.

There followed some technical questions on when individuals receive honorary degrees. C. Brett and B. Evans answered that only those candidates who arrive at Convocation are officially conferred with degrees. Other candidates approved by Senate may receive a degree in future, subject to the three-year eligibility rule..

J. Devine stated that he has no faith in the current process, which results in no faith in the current list of potential honorary degree recipients. Consequently, he would prefer to suspend granting honorary degrees until a new process is in place. E. Steuter and K. Johnston raised the same concern. B. Clayton asked whether we need to grant honorary degrees every year. R. MacKinnon responded that it is usual practice. He also stated that he preferred to grant honorary degrees this year and that there is an existing list of Senate-approved candidates.

Motion (K. Johnston/C. MacDougall): that the University not confer honorary degrees at its May 2024 Convocation:

L. Michaelis noted that Senate motions require 72 hours notice of motion. In response, the proponents made the following motion.

Motion (C. MacDougall/ K. Johnston): that Senate waive the notice requirement for the preceding motion:

**Motion defeated
(17 nays, 12 yeas, 4 abstentions)**

Senate did not consider the motion by Johnson/MacDougall.

11.10.10 Other Business

There was no other business.

12.10.10 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:09 pm, as moved by V. St. Pierre.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Brett
Secretary