

MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY
FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018
4 pm
Tweedie Hall

Present: L. Beck (Secretary), P. Brown, R. Campbell (Chair), A. Cockshutt, G. Cruttwell, J. Devine, N. Farooqi, D. Fleming, C. Forestall, J. Holton, R. Inglis, C. Ionescu, P. Kelly Spurles, L. Kern, J. Kurek, R. Lapp, S. Law, M. Lee, M. Levesque, J. Lilburn, B. Lundell, C. MacDougall-Fleming, S. MacIver, R. Majithia, J. Martínez, K. Meade, L. Michaelis, A. Nurse, J. Ollerhead, C. Parker, R. Polegato, B. Robertson, S. Runge, R. Schellenberg, L. Snyder, V. St. Pierre, E. Steuter, E. Stregger, M. Truitt, E. Wells, D. Wills, and A. Wilson.

Observers: S. Colette, A. Comfort, N. Fry (MASU), R. Howlett (MASU), M. Husisk (Argosy), A. Moreira (MASU), E. Patterson (MASU), M. Petlock, K. Stel (MASU), and N. Verret (MASU).

Regrets: K. Bell, H. Lane, and E. Millar.

1. Approval of the Agenda.

Motion (M. Truitt/G. Cruttwell): that Faculty Council approve the agenda as amended.

The Chair proposed moving Item 6 (Update on Student Affairs Initiatives) to follow Item 3; the minutes reflect this amendment.

Motion carried.

2. Approval of the Minutes from Sept. 26, 2017.

Motion (G. Cruttwell/B. Robertson): that Faculty Council approve the minutes.

Motion carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes from Oct. 24, 2017.

Motion (B. Robertson/M. Truitt): that Faculty Council approve the minutes.

Motion carried.

4. Update on Student Affairs Initiatives, Including Mental Health Supports, Sexual Violence Prevention, and Academic Support Initiatives.

Several Student Affairs staff members provided updates on that office's programming and initiatives. A. Comfort circulated information about the wellness centre's programmes and outreach and encouraged faculty to use those resources to reach out to students who may be in need. She commented on how students may make an appointment and invited faculty to express interest in participating in the mental health emergency training in March. M. Petlock updated faculty on the services she offers through SHARE and noted that appointment wait times have been reduced. Support is also available to faculty and staff, for instance about sexual harassment. S. Colette shared news of her peer-to-peer, collaborative student success activities, which also focus on opportunities to help higher achieving students, as well as struggling students, and with

increasingly discipline-specialized resources. Members are encouraged to follow up with A. Comfort, M. Petlock, and S. Colette.

5. Minimum Class Size Benchmark of 8 Students.

J. Ollerhead informed members that the deans will be identifying courses that habitually have 8 students or fewer and investigate the reasons for the lower enrolments in order to see if resources should be reallocated elsewhere, particularly to address waitlist challenges. Several members expressed concern that upper-year offerings in many programmes, and the ability for students to complete degree programmes, would be impacted were a minimum enrolment figure imposed. J. Ollerhead stated that deans will have some discretion in applying the minimum enrolment target. Discussion also turned toward the impact that the new distribution requirements model is having on first year enrolments, if greater waitlists have resulted, and whether we should be reflecting on other pressures—such as the termination of the anthropology programme—for reasons behind first-year waitlist challenges. R. Campbell and K. Meade commented that external data typically evidences greater student satisfaction at the upper year level, and S. Runge stated that smaller classes incentivize recruitment.

6. Discussion of Draft Revision of Policy 5310 Evaluation of Teaching

L. Snyder presented the pre-circulated report and requested questions and comments. MASU members on the committee provided additional context about student consultation and the selection of questions for the teaching surveys. E. Steuter and R. Polegato commented that these evaluations are being used for promotion purposes or for teaching awards, and some of the information collected on teaching surveys does not respond to these objectives. A lively discussion about the questions to be included under the policy, as well as the administration of the surveys, ensued.

7. Decanal Structure for 2018-2019.

J. Ollerhead reviewed the community's response to the decanal restructuring proposal circulated to the community in January; he reported that he had received approximately fifty written responses, a number of phone calls, and participated in planned and unplanned meetings. The consultation provided no clear direction forward. He concluded that the consultation process had not been successful or conclusive and plans to return with a revised proposal soon. J. Lilburn asked about the community's response to proposed adjustments to the role of the university librarian, and J. Ollerhead informed members that most feedback discouraged replacing the librarian with a manager. J. Lilburn pointed to the media attention about this subject across Canada and in the librarian community; in addition to letters to librarians, the CAUT, NBFA, and CAPAL (Canadian Association of Professional Academic Librarians) have written expressing concern.

8. Report from the Chair.

R. Campbell informed members that the process for appointing a new president will conclude soon. In addition to mentioning several events taking place on campus in the coming weeks, he praised the recently-awarded \$540,000 grant from the Canada Council to the Owens Art Gallery.

9. Other Business.

None raised.

10. Adjournment at 5:34 pm.