

MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY
Faculty Council Minutes
Tuesday, September 18, 2018
4 pm
Cons 004 (The Band Room)

Members: S. Andrews, L. Beck (Secretary), P. Berry, J-P. Boudreau (Chair), A. Beverley, A. Cockshutt, M. Cormier, N. Farooqi, C. Forstall, C. Ionescu, R. Ireland, P. Kelley Spurles, K. Meade, S. MacIver, E. Millar, R. Moser, J. Ollerhead, C. Parker, J. Rogers, V. St. Pierre, E. Stregger, M. Truitt, and E. Wells.

Observers: N. Fry.

1. Approval of the agenda.

Motion: that members approve the agenda as circulated (P. Kelly Spurles/E. Millar)

Carried

2. Approval of the minutes from May 10, 2018.

Motion: that members approve the minutes as circulated (M. Truitt/E. Millar)

Carried

3. Introductions.

Members introduced themselves to the Chair and to each other.

4. Report from the chair.

J-P. Boudreau thanked Dr. Robert Campbell, his predecessor, and C. Verduyn for their leadership on campus. He acknowledged that Faculty Council is an important space for dialogue, one where inclusive discussion about the university and its mission take place, and welcomes feedback on how Faculty Council can better support this mission. He stated that a future meeting of this body will discuss its structure. He also reminded members about the president's listening tour and encourage members to attend one of the sessions while indicating that he would be happy to receive invitations to meet with departments.

5. October graduands (C. Parker; material circulated at the meeting).

Motion: that members approve the list of graduands as circulated (A. Cockshutt/C. Parker).

6. Accessibility and faculty resources (K. Meade/A. Comfort).

A. Comfort and staff from the Meighen Centre provided members with an overview of initiatives and recent changes underway at the Centre, including the introduction of Accommodate, the software used by staff to manage student accommodations and special needs; faculty will be asked via this platform to review and approve accommodations. They outlined the principle of universal design in the classroom for optimizing learning whereby multiple means of learning and demonstrating learning inform course design. Faculty were encouraged to consult with the Meighen Centre for further resources.

7. Withdrawal Policy (E. Wells).

E. Wells spoke to the matter and discussions last year at Faculty Council. She reported that there were some negative consequences, such as students abandoning groupwork or consuming lab supplies and then dropping the class late in the semester. A subcommittee was struck to look at this issue and during the summer they studied data supplied by Jon Parsons yet were unable to reach any consensus on the underlying causes. The policy will continue to be in effect for one more year while more data is collected. Faculty were encouraged to send comments about the policy to E. Wells.

8. Policy concerning the filling of endowed chairs (J. Ollerhead).

J. Ollerhead presented the existing policy and a rationale for updating it. He asked members to support creating one committee that fills any vacant chairs on an annual basis and doing away with the requirement to procure external letters of support for candidates. Members generally assented to the proposal. He inquired if the committee needs to consult the candidate's department members to know their thoughts on the candidate's appointment to the chair and several members expressed their belief that this consultation would be valuable.

9. Other business.

Several announcements of upcoming events were circulated to members.

10. Adjournment at 5:14 pm.