

MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY
MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

April 5, 2018, 5:00 p.m.
Wu Centre

Present: C. Brett (Secretary), R. Campbell (Chair), A. Cockshutt, G. Cruttwell, G. Desmarais, J. Devine, J. Dryden, E. Edson, B. Evans, A. Fancy, N. Farooqi, M. Fox, N. Fry, A. Grant, O. Griffiths, D. Hamilton, R. Howlett, K. Johnston, G. Jollymore, L. Keliher, P. Kelly-Spurles, J. Lilburn, W. Lundell, S. MacIver, J. Martinez, D. Mawhinney, K. Meade, L. Michaelis, A. Moreira, A. Nurse, J. Ollerhead (Vice-chair), C. Parker, R. Pascoe-Deslauriers, E. Patterson, B. Robertson, S. Runge, V. St. Pierre, K. Stel, E. Steuter, J. Tomes, M. Truitt, N. Verret, N. Vogan, J. Waller, E. Wells, A. Wilson

Regrets: G. Cruttwell, N. Farooqi, L. Kern, B. White

Observers: R. Adlam, R. Archibald, K. Aubie, L. Bennett, B. Blakney, A. Cober, C. Demond, A. d'Entremont, E. Godfrey, J. Grant, N. Hauptman, S. Hori, M. Keays, E. Larkin, S. Laviolette, E. Lewis, A. Main, C. MacFarlane, K. Mason, M. McClure, S. McGraw, B. Melnyk, C. Osborne, E. Ostafichuk, E. Rossong, E. Troughton, S. van Walsum, S. Vlaar, L. Wood, B. Wright, S. Young

00.04.05 Acknowledgement of Lands

R. Campbell acknowledged that the meeting was held on the traditional and unceded lands of the Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik peoples. He called on Senators to work with these peoples toward a more just and equitable society.

01.04.05 Approval of the Agenda

Motion (M. Truitt/A. Cockshutt): that Senate adopt the Agenda as circulated

Motion Carried

02.04.05 Approval of the Senate Minutes of March 13, 2018

Motion (A. Nurse/N. Farooqi): that Senate adopt the Minutes of the meeting of March 13, 2018

Motion Carried

03.04.05 Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising. R. Campbell took the opportunity to welcome the large contingent of Anthropology students and other observers to the meeting.

04.04.05 Response from the University Planning Committee to the Anthropology Student Society in Accordance with the Motion of March 13, 2018

J. Ollerhead gave the response requested at the meeting of March 13. He began with a re-cap of the decisions to suspend enrollment in ANTH 1011 for the 2017-2018 academic year and, recently, to continue the suspension for the 2018-2019 academic year. He stressed that the decision is not a reflection of program quality. He said that there had been wide consultation and much discussion at the University Planning Committee from Spring 2017 onward. He noted that a proposal to reallocate the teaching resources of Anthropology to Indigenous Studies was defeated at the December 16, 2017 meeting of Senate. This defeat made it necessary to come up with a new plan for Anthropology courses. Because that plan is yet to be developed, the Provost thought it wise to suspend enrollment in ANTH 1011 for 2018-

2019 so as to not give the impression that students who might enter ANTH 1011 would have the opportunity to continue in the Anthropology program as it is currently constructed. He ended his response with an assurance that students currently enrolled in Anthropology programs will be able to finish their studies.

There followed a discussion of the Provost's remarks, with many student guests and some Senators contributing. The discussion included the following themes.

1. Several speakers disagreed with the argument that avoiding confusion provided sufficient justification to suspend enrollment. These speakers argued that it would be possible to allow students to enroll in ANTH 1011 while making it clear that it would not necessarily be a pathway to the Anthropology programs currently on the books. There were, on the other hand, some speakers who shared the Provost's concern about causing confusion.
2. Doubts were expressed over the ability to re-start the Anthropology program after two years without an intake of first year students.
3. The Provost was asked when a plan regarding Anthropology would be in place. The Provost answered that he hoped to have a plan before the end of 2018. In response to further questions, the Provost said that if a plan were in place by Fall 2018, it might be possible to offer ANTH 1011 during Winter 2019.
4. Many student visitors were of the opinion that they were not adequately consulted about the decision to suspend enrollment. The Provost agreed that the decision to suspend enrollment for 2017-2018 was done without student consultation. However, he said there has been wide consultation on the future of Anthropology courses and programs in the in period since that first decision.
5. Students raised several concerns about future students: (i) that they might choose not to attend Mount Allison due to the lack of Anthropology courses, (ii) that they might not be able to enroll in professional programs for which an introductory Anthropology course is required, (iii) that they will not have the opportunity to learn the skills developed as part of Anthropology courses.
6. Questions were raised about the connections between Anthropology and Indigenous Studies. These included whether ANTH 1011 would be part of an Indigenous Studies program and why the idea of housing Indigenous scholars in the Anthropology Department was not pursued. J. Ollerhead answered that the Indigenous Studies program would take shape after faculty members dedicated to Indigenous Studies are hired, and that decisions about program requirements would be made as part of program development. He added that the current approach to developing an Indigenous Studies program is one that came out of discussions with the Indigenous Advisory Circle.

R. Campbell then thanked everyone for engaging in rigorous and open discussion on the issue.

05.04.05 Other Business

There was no other business.

06.04.05 Adjournment

There being no further business or announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm (A. Cockshutt/V. St. Pierre).

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Brett
Secretary