

MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY

Faculty Council Minutes

Tuesday, April 6th, 2021

4 pm, on Teams

Attendees: J. Dryden (chair), G. Cruttwell (secretary), K. Bell, P. Berry, A. Beverley, J.-P. Boudreau, C. Brett, B. Clayton, A. Cockshutt, E. Edson, M. Farina, N. Farooqi, O. Griffiths, D. Hamilton, M. Hamilton, L.D. Hamilton, J. Hennessy, B. Jewett, J. Kalyn, D. Keeping, L. Landon, H. Lane, R. Lapp, A. LePage, M. Levesque, M. Litvak, C. Lovekin, R. Moser, J. Ollerhead, C. O'Neal, G. Ouellette, L. Pearse, T. Reiffenstein, L. Ricker, B. Robertson, S. Runge, L. Shumka, V. St. Pierre, E. Steuter, E. Stregger, J. Tomes, L. Wasylikiw, B. White, A. Wilson

Observers and Guests: A. Comfort, J. Ferguson, R. Inglis, G. Jollymore, B. MacIntosh, C. Milner, C. Pomare, C. Roberts, S. Tobin

1. Land acknowledgment.
2. Approval of the agenda
 - Moved by M. Litvak, seconded by L. Pearse
3. Approval of the minutes of March 1 (attached).
 - Moved by J. Hennessy, seconded by L. Pearse
4. Business arising.
 - The chair noted that:
 - We already have several important agenda items planned for the final faculty council meeting in May
 - A call for new faculty council executive members will soon be sent out by email
5. From the Sexual Violence Prevention Working Group: Discussion of Faculty Training Opportunities (attached) [*estimate: 20 minutes*]
 - The chair of the working group opened the discussion, noting that their first major task was recommendations around staffing; these have already been sent to the President
 - The second major task for the working group has been campus-wide education, and so the working group would like to hear from faculty what training they think would be useful in this area
 - Examples were given in the attached handout, and many people agreed these were good examples of things they would like training in
 - Several members of the Classics and History departments noted that they have found it challenging to talk about and frame discussions of historical sexuality in the classroom; any training in this area would be appreciated.

- Another request was for practical strategies to handle and help students dealing with trauma
- Another request was training in being a first point of contact for students: it is difficult balancing the student's need for confidentiality vs. one's duty to report
- One final request was for training sessions to be shorter over a longer period of time (eg., 1 hour a week on Fridays) as opposed to a single long training session
- Many members of Faculty Council expressed their appreciation to the chair and the committee for their work

6. Discussion with Vice President, Finance and Administration, of MTA's financial health [*estimate: 10-20 minutes*]

- The chair noted that many faculty have been following the Laurentian situation, and would like clarification if Mount Allison could experience similar issues
- The Vice President of Finance and Administration gave several opening remarks:
 - Laurentian is currently insolvent; this is a very serious situation, and perhaps the first time this has happened in Canada
 - While he has no inside information, his best guess given some of the publicly available data is that they have been running serious deficits for years, and borrowed their own and banks' cash without a plan to pay it back
 - At Mount Allison, we track our cash and finances both in the short-term and long-term very closely
 - We currently owe the banks no long-term debt, and have strict board policies around debt: the President can't sign bank debts without board approval
 - We do occasionally "borrow from ourselves", but always put the cash back
 - We are not nearly in the same situation as Laurentian, and won't be in the near future
 - However, we have been running deficits recently, and we will have to deal with those long-term
- The provost noted that he has in the past worked at a University which ran into financial difficulties: the issue is that one can get into such a situation fairly quickly, and it can take a long time to get out of
- One member asked how our recent deficits been payed for; in response it was noted that we have been exhausting some of our cash reserves; if we continue in this way we will need to start borrowing
- It was noted that Laurentian has a materially larger operating budget than Mt.A: approximately 150 million vs. approximately 45 million

7. Adjournment occurred at 6:05