MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY
MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

January 11, 2022, 4:00pm
via Microsoft Teams

Present via remote connection: N. Anthonisen, K. Bell, P. Berry, A. Beverley, B. Blakney, J-P. Boudreau (Chair), C. Burke, B. Clayton, A. Comfort, H. Crouse, G. Desmarais, T-A. Dixon, E. Edson, B. Evans, A. Fancy, S. Fanning, N. Farooqi, D. Fleming, D. Hamilton, L-D. Hamilton, J. Hennessy (Vice-Chair), R. Inglis, C. Ionescu, K. Johnston, S. Keller, L. Kern, A. Koval, A. Kreuger, L. Landon, R. Lapp, A. Lepage, M. Levesque, D. Lieske, M. Litvak, C. Lovekin, G. MacLean-de Stecher, R. Majithia, C. Major, V. Meli, M-E. Messinger, N. Milliea, R. Minocha-McKenney, R. Moser (Secretary), J. Mullen, C. Pringle-Carver, B. Robertson, S. Runge, E. Steuter, V. St. Pierre, J. Tomes, N. Vogan, W. Wilson

Observers: L. Hawthorne, M. Maston, G. Sandala

Regrets: L. Garnett

01.01.11 Land Acknowledgement

J-P. Boudreau welcomed everyone to the first Senate meeting of 2022 and acknowledged that we meet in the unceded territory of Mi'kma'ki. He said Mount Allison and Sackville stand tall and proud with other communities in New Brunswick working to embody Indigenous ways of doing, knowing, and acting, and he appreciates the efforts of all community members to do this.

02.01.11 Approval of agenda

Motion (M. Litvak / N. Farooqi): that Senate adopt the agenda as presented.

Motion carried

03.01.11 Approval of the minutes (7 December, 2021)

Motion (B. Robertson / J. Hennessy): that Senate adopt the minutes of the meeting of 7 December, 2021 as presented.

Motion carried

04.01.11 Business arising from the minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

05.01.11 Chair's remarks

New Year

The Chair welcomed everyone back for a new semester. He thanked all Mount Allison students for their endeavours and MASU for supporting our students. In the context of continually-changing COVID-protocol, the Chair remarked that although he doesn't know what 'normal' is anymore, beginning a new academic term feels like a welcome touch of normal. He indicated that although he is an optimistic person, some days lately he feels tired and defeated, acknowledging that many people in our community feel the same way. Everyone is doing their best and encouraging others, and it is also important to be honest with ourselves and one another and share our struggles during these are discouraging times. He said we need to keep looking out for each other and checking on our classmates, friends, family, and colleagues. Many of us are now also 'part-time K-12 teachers' while the K-12 students of the province are learning at home. He endorsed the spirit of a recent social media message from Dr. Andrea Morash that on-line learning and preparation is a challenging workload and we need to think carefully about the work demands we are asking of our students. It is a good time to remind ourselves of 'a point of diminishing returns' as we multitask, not to overextend ourselves nor to expect ourselves to be completing 100% of our usual workloads. The Chair noted that VPs and Deans had just recently communicated to their teams and faculties that everyone consider eliminating any unnecessary meetings, to focus on the core mission of the university, and to protect our energies and our health. The Chair is proud to be a part of this community. He extended a special note of appreciation to those who had reached out to him personally with notes of encouragement.

COVID-19

We are inundated every day with details about the pandemic. Mount Allison strives to go above and beyond what is mandated by the Province to do what is right and best for the campus community and the broader communities around us. The Chair noted the update to campus this past Friday including the following items: a 3rd vaccine is now available to university-aged population; there has been a change in requirements for isolation timelines; there has been a shift to more self-monitoring and use of rapid tests only when there are symptoms. As of today, there are 2,108 fully vaccinated students and 538 fully vaccinated faculty and staff. We continue to monitor a small number of students and staff. We expect 824 students in Residences this semester and each will be provided with 2 individual rapid tests to be used only if symptomatic. Residence students have been given specific information on what to do if testing positive (e.g. contact, meal delivery, etc.) Symptomatic off-campus students will be able to request a 2-test kit through the University. The COVID response team is working on logistics which will include consideration for staff and faculty. Positive cases are asked to report to GNB and the University and follow isolation guidelines. Anyone notifying us of testing positive is being tracked by staff and supported as needed. Confidential reporting of positive tests may be directed to Sarah MacKinnon, and the COVID response team is working to update the reporting procedure. As of 2:58pm today we have 10 active positive cases. These cases are now showing mild symptoms and are not in need of significant support. We have had 23 reported positive cases since December 24th. The Chair noted that we understand this to be an under-representation as individuals over the holidays were not likely to report to us. We can also expect the numbers of

active cases to go up based on the swift transmissibility of the Omicron variant. The COVID response team is meeting daily to go over case counts, operational details, and communications. The Chair is pleased to report that we have a significant order of N95 masks on the way to Sackville, with details to follow concerning their distribution. Starting next week, we will be issuing weekly COVID-related updates each Tuesday afternoon, with additional timely updates as needed. Last, there will be a virtual "Community Discussion on Navigating the Pandemic" this Friday at 1:30 pm.

Other remarks

The first week of classes is off to a good start. There are always a few technical difficulties here & there at the best of times, and the Chair noted there were a few technical glitches with on-line systems for meetings and course delivery. He thanked students, staff, and faculty all for helping us get back to the core academic mission of the University. In the spirit of working towards 'normal', students are eagerly re-engaging in numerous clubs and societies, including opportunities for musical and cultural events on campus when possible. Our student athletes are practicing within the provincial guidelines for sport, readying for competition when restrictions lessen. Our Mt.A. recruiting teams are already busy looking to next year, and so far enrollment is looking encouraging. New programs seem to be finding their own niche, attracting students while also not drawing away from other programs. He thanked everyone for their roles in developing and implementing new programming at Mount Allison.

06.01.11 Report from University Planning Committee

J. Hennessy delivered a verbal report to Senate. The UPC hasn't met since the last Senate meeting. They were due to meet yesterday, but canceled given that it was a light agenda, and, in the spirit of the new principle of alleviating meetings and lightening administrative burdens that could be addressed later. The Provost noted that he plans to have another discussion of the Strategic Academic Plan draft at the next Faculty Council meeting on January 25, and he plans to submit the final draft to Senate at the February meeting. He said the next tasks of the UPC will be to review feedback on the unit reviews conducted in the Fall, and he indicated that units have been given some extended time to prepare responses to those reviews. He noted that formal notices of upcoming mid-term reviews will soon be sent to HIST, MATH, and POLS.

07.01.11 Report from Academic Matters, Curriculum and Academic

N. Farooqi noted that the report consisted of details concerning the new BA Joint Major in Computer Science and Music.

Motion (N. Farooqi / V. St. Pierre): That Senate approve for the 2022-23 Academic Calendar the new BA Joint Major in Computer Science and Music, including course creation, and changes to prerequisites & course descriptions, as described in the Academic Matters report.

Motion carried

The Chair congratulated everyone and commented that this new program builds on the existing strengths of both departments. The Provost remarked that it looks even better than a similar program he knows about at another institution, and he congratulated everyone for developing the new program.

08.01.11 Discover Mt.A

J-P. Boudreau welcomed notice of events, initiatives, accolades—anything noteworthy Senators wished to highlight.

N. Farooqi congratulated student Nathan Robichaud for securing a prestigious Sobey Award for Excellence in Business Studies for the second time. The first time it had a monetary value of $30,000, and this current award is valued at $35,000. Farooqi remarked that Robichaud is an excellent student and an excellent ambassador for Mt.A.

K. Bell signaled an upcoming event co-organized by Bell and M. Levesque, a bilingual presentation by M. Johan Schitterer, the Consultat Général de France à Moncton et Halifax, entitled 'La Jeunesse Dans La Relation France-Canada Atlantique et Acadie / Youth in France-Atlantic Canada Relations', to be held via Zoom on January 17th.

J. Tomes noted that Doug Campbell and Max Berthold were awarded a $49,000 grant from the New Brunswick Innovation Foundation's climate impact fund.

A. Comfort gave a shout out to students from the Garnett & Gold Society for putting COVID protocols in place to keep their shows going safely. Kudos to them for their initiative and conscientiousness, and she hopes audiences will be able to enjoy their show soon.

V. St. Pierre acknowledged that Drama, Music, and Fine Arts students and faculty have suffered lots of canceled events and offered an emphatic word of encouragement to hang in there.

M. Levesque noted that FMSPPE convenor Dr. Dave Thomas has organized the inaugural McKenna Distinguished Speaker Series talk for Dr. Rinaldo Walcott, scheduled for Feb. 1st.

J. Tomes gave an appreciative shout out to professors and instructors for their flexibility and creativity helping students get into courses they need.

B. Clayton announced that roof construction work on the WMSC is in preparation for installation of a 'green roof', which is a joint venture between Mt.A, MASU, and RELG and CENL. The plan is to have a multifaith space with garden scheduled to be planted in the spring. The Chair extended thanks to Clayton and to Dr. Fiona Black and colleagues from RELG for their extensive work going into this inspiring initiative.

09.01.11 Other business

There was no other business.

10.01.11 Adjournment

The Chair extended appreciative thanks for the community's camaraderie, frankness, and forthrightness. He hopes to see many of us at the COVID Town Hall on Friday.

The meeting adjourned at 4:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robbie Moser
Secretary