

MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY  
MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

September 13, 2022, 4:00pm  
Windsor Grand Room & Microsoft Teams (hybrid format)

Present: N. Anthonisen, F. Antonelli, I. Battiloro, K. Bell, A. Beverley, J-P. Boudreau (Chair), S. Chun, B. Clayton, A. Comfort, K. Crosby, J. Dryden, B. Evans, A. Fancy, S. Fanning, D. Fleming, A. Francis, L. Garnett, M. Hamilton, J. Hennessy (Vice-Chair), R. Inglis, C. Ionescu, K. Johnston, E. Jollimore, K. Keleher, A. Koval, A. Kreuger, R. Lapp, A. Lepage, M. Levesque, I. Lirette, C. Lovekin, C. MacDougall, C. Major, V. Meli, R. Minocha-McKenney, R. Moser (Secretary), J. Mullen, T. Nelson, G. Ouelette, C. Pringle-Carver, R. Rubin, S. Runge, S. Park, J. Penley, V. St. Pierre, J. Tomes, N. Vogan, B. Walters, W. Wilson

Observers: G. Goodwin, G. Miller, G. Sandala

Regrets: B. Robertson

01.09.13 Territorial Acknowledgement

J-P. Boudreau read the official territorial acknowledgment written by Elders and the Indigenous Advisory Circle as follows:

We would like to acknowledge that we are located within the territory of Mi'kma'ki, the unceded, ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq. Our relationship and our privilege to live on this territory was agreed upon in the Peace and Friendship Treaties of 1752. Because of this treaty relationship it is to be acknowledged that we are all Treaty people and have a responsibility to respect this territory.

02.09.13 Approval of agenda

**Motion (V. St.Pierre / K. Bell): that Senate adopt the agenda as presented.**

**Motion carried**

03.09.13 Approval of the minutes (12 May, 2022)

**Motion (K. Bell / J. Hennessy): that Senate adopt the minutes of the meeting of 12 May, 2022 as presented.**

**Motion carried**

04 09.13 Business arising from the minutes

No business arising.

05.09.13          Chair's remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone back to Senate, and extended a special welcome to all new Senators. The Chair noted the new hybrid attendance format.

#### *Enrollment*

A current estimate of enrollment hovers between 700-715 new first-year students. This is still in flux and won't be official until later in the term, but the number won't be 750 as budgeted earlier in the year. The budget estimated 1639 returning students, and presently this is tracking at approximately 1600. International student numbers are up slightly from last year, but vacillating as people wait for visas and navigate other impediments to arrival. The Chair thanked all faculty and staff for initiatives in reaching out to incoming and returning students over the summer to facilitate recruitment and retention. The Chair thanked Kutay Ulkuer and the recruitment team for helping to bring in one of the largest incoming classes Mount Allison has seen in years.

#### *Residence*

The budget estimated 936 students in residence, and there is presently a shortfall of 52 from that estimated number. These small shortfalls have significant impacts on the budget. Combined with the less-than-projected new enrollments and the less-than-projected returning student numbers, this could translate into approximately a \$680k shortfall in the budget for the current year.

#### *Sexual Violence Prevention*

Mount Allison's sexual violence prevention action plans have moved forward extensively over the past year and a half. New staff have been hired for these initiatives working under VP Anne Comfort's office. The official Policy itself is still undergoing consultative processes at the Board of Governors level.

#### *Projects and Infrastructure*

There has been much happening this summer in terms of building and development projects on campus. The refurbished residence Charlotte House is now open with 29 beds; there has so far been great feedback from students on that space. Harper residence continues to be 'offline' and remaining work projects for that space are presently out for tender. Work continues on the major Library & Archives renovation project. The Chair here acknowledged and welcomed to Mount Allison the new Dean of Libraries & Archives, Dr. Rachel Rubin. The Chair indicated that Advancement is hard at work securing further funding for existing and new projects. The Chair noted his disappointment that the gym didn't open in August as hoped, and said that a mid-December completion time is now more likely. Global supply chain problems have made it difficult to meet the initially-projected completion date. Thanks to the Sackville community for donating gym space, and thanks to Facilities, to Robert Inglis, Christiane Major and Anne Comfort, the Athletic Directors and their teams, the coaches, assistants, and the athletes for their help and cooperation navigating that challenge.

#### *COVID-19*

All members of the university community are encouraged to stay home if they are unwell. Anyone may email [wellness@mta.ca](mailto:wellness@mta.ca) to get University-provided rapid test kits for personal use.

## *Events*

Sackville Pride Week runs from September 15 to 24 and opens with a Pride flag raising at 6pm on the 15<sup>th</sup>. The Ron Joyce Centre for Business Studies presents Terry O'Reilly on September 22 at the Motyer-Fancy Theatre. Highly-anticipated Homecoming events take place on September 23-24. This coincides with Fall Fair in Sackville, and with related outdoor celebrations from Port Elgin to Memramcook. The Music recital and Gala took place on Sept. 10, the Sackville Festival of Early Music takes place Sept. 23-28, and a newly-donated harpsichord will be unveiled at a concert on Sept 25. National Day of Truth and Reconciliation will be observed on September 30. More details to come on that in item #7 here below.

## *Consent Agenda*

The Senate Agenda Committee met and discussed the use of a consent agenda to expedite some recurring, rote, and often uncontroversial procedures of Senate. Examples of such procedures include but are not limited to approving the past meeting minutes, reports for information, and acclamation of members to committees. Items on the consent agenda are indicated on the circulated agenda, and any items there appearing are assumed to be entered into the record and approved by Senate. In Senate, when the Chair arrives at the item 'consent agenda', the Chair checks whether any Senator wishes to remove any item from the agenda for discussion. That item is removed from the consent agenda and discussed, and if there is a motion involved, it is discussed and voted on in the usual manner. The Secretary will make use of an introductory consent agenda at the next meeting of Senate.

The Chair opened discussion on his Report. A. Krueger asked for clarity on the consultation being done concerning sexual violence and prevention and specifically whether and how students were consulted. The Chair invited VP A. Comfort to answer. Comfort said further consultation on language and aspects of the policy was needed with HR and with legal advisors, as is usual with any policy. It will also continue to be reviewed by the Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Governors, and its student members have opportunities to discuss it. The Chair said we want to get this policy right, and we want lots of voices and feedback and from students especially.

J. Dryden thanked the Chair for arranging the hybrid attendance model for Senate this year. Dryden asked about the former "What's On at Mount A" email notices detailing events for a coming period. These were a centralized, convenient way to know about all the events happening, and without this events are easily missed. Could the 'What's On' or some similar mode of regular round-up be brought back? The Chair thanked Dryden for the question and indicated that VP Courtney Pringle-Carver was taking note of it as a communications matter.

## 06.09.13      Report from University Planning Committee (J. Hennessy)

The Provost noted that this was his first-ever in-person Senate at Mt.A. He said the UPC met once since May and has lots more meetings scheduled over the coming weeks. There are 25 permanent position requests from Academic Units. These will be ranked and that ranking will be reported to Senate. They are not yet sure about a number of authorizable hires yet, and more information is to come. Self-studies have come in from three Academic Units undergoing external reviews this year: BIOL, ECON, and MLLC. It is possible that some or all of these reviews will be done remotely as they were last year.

07.09.13 Report from Academic Matters, Regulations (J. Hennessy)

The Provost briefly reviewed the rationale for the timing of the motion concerning closing the University for National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, and acknowledged the oddness of having Senate vote on the matter that is already part of the calendar. The Provost said this is a ‘mea culpa’, he takes responsibility for the inconvenience, and it was owing to an oversight on his part as they drafted the projected Calendar of Events brought to Senate earlier in 2022.

**Motion (J. Hennessy / C. Major): That Senate approve the addition of a day of no classes for Truth and Reconciliation Day to the 2022-2023 calendar of events.**

**Motion carried, 5 opposed**

The Chair opened discussion. S. Runge clarified that according to the motion on the floor, we would not be adding an extra day to the teaching term to accommodate the missed day on September 30. The Provost verified this was correct.

M. Hamilton said this is a difficult motion, since he doesn’t wish to endorse anything that reduces the length of the already-short teaching term, but he supports closing the University for National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. Hamilton signaled that he can’t support this motion since he thought it came with an added day to the teaching term. The Provost replied that he appreciated the difficulty and reiterated the ‘mea culpa’. He said adding an extra teaching day either shortened exams or delayed the end of term holiday break, so the motion is to lose the day.

V. Meli indicated that the email in late May from R. Moser signaling this upcoming motion was accompanied by a draft Calendar of Events with added teaching days. If we lose the Friday now, Friday-only classes lose an entire week of instruction. Does anyone have any suggestions for how to deal with this? C. Major replied that she can’t speak to whether specific courses can absorb a loss of a week’s instruction, adding that last year a Thursday needed to be modified in a similar way. Generally, the Registrar’s Office avoids making any changes to exam dates as it is too disruptive. M. Hamilton and J. Hennessy checked the emailed draft Calendar of Events mentioned by V. Meli to determine whether it shortened the actual exam dates and found that it did. The Chair called the question.

After the vote, the Chair addressed A. LePage’s question in the Teams chat concerning the University’s plans for Queen Elizabeth II’s funeral on September 19<sup>th</sup>. The Chair said members of the President’s Cabinet would be speaking about it tomorrow morning and would inform the community about this as soon as possible.

08.09.13 Report from Committee on Committees (S. Runge)

**Motion 1 (S. Runge/ C.Ionescu): The Committee on Committees moves that Senate acclaim the following students to these Senate Committees for terms to begin immediately and ending April 30, 2023:**

**The Academic Appeals Committee**

Isabella Lirette

**The Academic Information Technology Committee**

Isabella Lirette

**The Committee on Students with Disabilities**

Tess Casher  
Mathilde Christjansen

**The Graduate Studies Committee**

Ryan Wahl

**The International Programs Committee**

Hannah Zettel

**Motion carried**

**Motion 2 (S. Runge/ V. St. Pierre): The Committee on Committees moves that Senate acclaim to the following Senate Committee for a term commencing immediately and ending June 30, 2023:**

**The Teaching and Learning Committee**

Gavin Goodwin

**Motion carried**

S. Runge issued a call from the floor for a volunteer member from the Faculty Social Sciences to be acclaimed to the Academic Matters, Curriculum & Academic Committee. The silence, in virtue of its mention here, was noteworthy. With no volunteer forthcoming, the Chair thanked S. Runge and invited another try at the next Senate meeting.

- 09.09.13      Reports for Information
- a. Academic Integrity Committee
  - b. Research Ethics Board
  - c. Admissions & Readmissions Committee
  - d. Late Granting of Degrees Committee

There was no discussion of the reports.

- 10.09.13      Discover Mt.A.

The Chair invited members to signal events.

V. St. Pierre issued congratulations for the following: to Leah Garnett for her installation at Hermes Gallery in Halifax; to Susie Andrews on her election to the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars; to Dave Thomas on his recent book launch for *Capitalism and Dispossession*; and, to Leslie Kern for her recent publication of *Gentrification is Inevitable and Other Lies*. St. Pierre signaled the VMCS speakers series upcoming event with Jeff Hennessy, 'A Canadian in Java studying Indonesian Gamalan'; and, asked everyone to watch for the excellent Presidents' Speakers Series events this year.

B. Evans reported that the annual Sackville-Mt.A. corn boil welcomed hundreds of students to Sackville. Bill has been participating for 10 years, and said it was so nice to be able to do this again with the students. It was a wonderful event. The Chair thanked Evans, the Town of Sackville, Mayor Shawn Mesheau, and reiterated that it is a well-loved and important event for the university and the town.

R. Minocha-McKenney reported that Orientation went well, the Day of Learning was well-received, and students on the whole reported having a great time. Minocha-McKenney said it was so nice to have the live concert back as welcoming event for students.

The Chair drew attention to Amanda Francis's comment in the Teams chat that she would be on campus for sweat lodge ceremonies on Sept. 15 and Sept. 29. He thanked Francis for this, and indicated what he perceived to be great access to and engagement with Indigenous community events in coming weeks.

11.09.13        Other business  
There was no other business.

12.09.13        Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robbie Moser  
Secretary