

MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY
MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

April 5, 2022, 4:00pm
via Microsoft Teams

Present via remote connection: F. Antonelli, K. Bell, A. Beverley, B. Blakney, J-P. Boudreau (Chair), G. Briand, C. Burke, B. Clayton, A. Comfort, H. Crouse, G. Desmarais, T-A. Dixon, B. Evans, A. Fancy, S. Fanning, N. Farooqi, L. Garnett, O. Griffiths, D. Hamilton, K. Hele, J. Hennessy (Vice-Chair), D. Hornidge, R. Inglis, C. Ionescu, K. Johnston, S. Keller, L. Kern, 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, E. Penton, V. St. Pierre, J. Tomes, N. Vogan

Guests: P. Brown, C. Cash, S. Collette, G. Cruttwell, P. Del Motte, S. Dewolfe, E. Falvey, G. Goodwin, J. Kurek, H. Lane, S. Law, J. Lilburn, C. Milner, E. Naylor, J. Ollerhead, C. Pomare, T. Roberts, G. Sandala, L. Shumka, D. Thomas, K. Ulkuer, L. Wasylkiw

01.04.05 Territorial Acknowledgement

J-P. Boudreau reminded Senators that, even virtually, we gather on the traditional and unceded territory of Mi'kma'ki, and that we are all Treaty people, and he extended thanks to those who work to respect this.

02.04.05 Approval of agenda

Motion (N. Farooqi / R. Majithia): that Senate adopt the agenda as presented.

Motion carried

03.04.05 Approval of Minutes (April 6, 2021)

Motion (B. Robertson / B. Evans): that Senate approve the minutes as submitted.

Motion carried

There was no discussion.

04.04.05 Business arising from the minutes

No business arising.

05.04.05 Chair's remarks

The Chair said it took a Herculean effort to get to this point, now in our second year of COVID. Thanks to all Faculty, Staff, and Students for their perseverance. The Chair noted he is looking forward to the upcoming Last Lecture by Dr. Lisa Dawn Hamilton.

COVID

The Chair cautioned everyone to remain vigilant and not to become complacent. Policies with respect to masking and social distancing haven't changed on campus, and he thanks the community for compliance. More to come very soon on Convocation planning concerning COVID safety protocol. The processions

will incorporate social distancing, there are limited tickets to ensure social distancing in Convocation Hall, and there is no big events or concerts in Jennings as was regular in past years. Some student events are in planning for outdoors. We want to retain the spirit of past Convocations with a mind to safety. The community tent in the quad will be back soon, with some new Adirondack chairs purchased with the President's professional development fund.

Budget

The Chair highlighted some points from the upcoming budget-in-progress presentation. We've had a couple of years of a disrupted budget. The Board is taking a long-term, multiyear approach to budgeting especially in the wake of COVID. The 4 publicly-funded universities in New Brunswick have received no government assistance for COVID. The Board is thinking strategically and attending to areas of enrollment growth. We're coming off a \$824,000 deficit in the operating budget. The goal is long-term sustainability, and budgeting with a view to a 3-to-5 year outlook. In terms of enrollment, we should aim to be north of 2700 students—that is a strategic number, and not growth for the sake of growth. The Chair's focus as ever continues to be the academic mission of the university. Thanks to Robert Inglis, and to Guylaine and Chris for their efforts at getting the budget projections together for today.

06.04.05 Presentation on Budget Development and Future Budget Planning

R. Inglis thanked everyone who helped get the presentation ready for today's meeting. Full tables and figures aren't yet ready, nor vetted by the Board committees. The report is available on the website at <https://mta.ca/about/leadership-and-governance/reports-and-accountability>

The budget planning is driven by recruitment, new programs, marketing and communications, all to get a target of 750 new enrollments and then to rely on 750-850 in the longer term to reach a sustainable state.

The Provost noted that we have added new tenure track positions in HIST, INDG/CENL, PSYC, and COMM, but we also have some key pressures with a major library and archives renovation project and we're down librarians. He added that the strategic academic plan supports enrolment.

V. Meli asked how confident we can be about the enrolment trajectory of 750-850 students. A. Comfort noted that the recruitment office is cautiously optimistic that 750 new students for Fall 2022 is achievable, and she thanked them for their efforts getting admissions counselors into markets early and virtually. There are projected increases across the board in the Atlantic provinces. This is possibly related to COVID-related holdouts in the previous year, but also, campus COVID management has instilled confidence in parents and students. Housing deposits are up 20%, and these are a good predictor of enrollment.

B. Blakney noted that 'sustainable' was a frequent term in the budget presentation, but university enrollments across the Maritimes have long been trending down. What justifies the projected spike in enrollments over the next 3-to-5 year planning outlook? R. Inglis replied that such projections always carry a bit of risk, but the model and plan are thoughtful and he believes it will work. The idea is that we won't make cuts, we will build initiatives. J.-P. Boudreau followed up to note that the Board in some way or another analyses and estimates various risks at every meeting, and agreed with Inglis that the plan is careful and thoughtful.

L. Landon noted a comment by J. Lilburn in the MS Teams chat, indicating that as of July 1 the Library will be down to a record low 4 Librarians, and there will be no subject librarian for Classics, Commerce, Economics, Environmental Studies, Fine Arts, Geography, German Lit., Government Information, Law, Languages and Linguistics, Music, and Visual & Material Cultures. The list doesn't include the Sciences

which have been without a subject librarian for several years. Landon noted that these lacunae don't serve students and faculty well. Landon encouraged the budget team to support what the Library & Archive's external review called their minimum faculty complement of 6 librarians.

09.02.07 Other business

There was no other business.

10.04.05 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robbie Moser
Secretary