

MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY  
MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

February 7, 2023, 4:00pm  
Windsor Grand Room & Microsoft Teams (hybrid format)

Present: N. Anthonisen, F. Antonelli, K. Bell, A. Beverley, J-P. Boudreau (Chair), L. Clark-Black, S. Chun, B. Clayton, C. Down, J. Dryden, B. Evans, A. Fancy, S. Fanning, D. Hamilton, M. Hamilton, J. Hennessy (Vice-Chair), R. Inglis, C. Ionescu, K. Johnston, E. Jollimore, J. Kalyn, K. Keleher, A. Kreuger, M. Levesque, C. Lovekin, C. MacDougall, C. Major, M. Maston, V. Meli, R. Minocha-McKenney, A. Morash, R. Moser (Secretary), T. Nelson, G. Ouelette, T. Reiffenstein, B. Robertson, R. Rubin, S. Runge, S. Park, S. Sarkar, V. St. Pierre, J. Tomes, N. Vogan, B. Walters, W. Wilson

Regrets: A. LePage

Guests: J. Mullen

01.02.07 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.

02.02.07 Approval of agenda

**Motion (R. Rubin / K. Bell): that Senate adopt the agenda as presented.**

**Motion carried**

03.02.07 Consent Agenda  
Approval of the minutes (10 Jan., 2023)

There was no discussion.

04.02.07 Business arising from the minutes

No business arising.

05.02.07 Chair's remarks

The Chair reported on some progress toward recovery for the student who was struck by the car in December, and reminded Senate of the family's request for privacy.

Our thoughts are with students and staff who have any loved ones in Turkey and Syria in the ongoing aftermath of the earthquake that affected regions in both countries.

The Sexual Violence Prevention Policy was passed by the Board last Friday. An important milestone has been reached. The Chair thanked the many staff, students, faculty, and board members involved in developing the Policy.

Since last Senate meeting there has been an exciting announcement concerning the renovations to the RP Bell Library and Archives. The Federal government and the New Brunswick provincial government have committed together to contributing \$36 million toward the renovations. It is the largest contribution from government in Mount Allison's history. The Chair indicated that a committee is in the works, including the Dean of Libraries and Archives and the Head of Facilities Management, to review the scope of the project and ensure everything is within budget.

The Chair signaled many events of note on campus in February, including multiple events connected to Black History Month, Healthy Relationships Week, and the upcoming Sweetest Little Thing.

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

The Planning Committee met yesterday and discussed program review reports for Biology and for Economics. Each was a very positive review, and each cited resource issues as areas for growth and improvement. The virtual site visit for Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures began today.

The Provost indicated that he doesn't know quite how to approach recommendations to increase resources. Even merely balancing the budget just gets us to supporting existing programs, leaving nothing for additions or development. The Provost expressed some concern with how we go about planning, wondering if we are 'over-curricularized'. The Provost suggested it may help for programs to think about doing what members want to do, what makes faculty and students happy, and playing to strengths. That sort of ground-up approach to curricular requirements may help to move us out of an austerity, resource-driven, zero-sum approach to planning.

K. Bell thought it would be useful to brainstorm about some of these curricular availabilities at Faculty Council. The Provost agreed, stating that ongoing discussions in Faculty Council, within Faculties, and within departments is what Mount Allison does well, and with a view to serving the longevity of the institution.

A. Beverley asked the Provost to expand on his comments: was the Provost talking about reviewing program offerings and cutting courses that are routinely not well-subscribed, or about broader changes? The Provost confirmed he had broader structural changes in mind. Are there any places where we're imposing more restrictions and requirements on ourselves and our students than is necessary? Can we contribute to one another's programs to offer innovative opportunities? These questions would be answered within programs and with a view to keeping our already strong offerings strong.

B. Walters noted that the Provost's comments here seem to be in tension with the encouragement toward program innovation and development that has come from the Strategic Plan and other sectors of administration in recent years. Could the Provost clarify? The Provost acknowledged the two competing messages and put the present message in the context of rethinking planning in terms of innovating with our existing strengths. Brand new programs attract students, and they begin with tiny budgets which don't give them much to work with, and which also route funds away from existing programs. So an innovation

strategy of ‘add, add, add’ is a losing strategy. An approach to that problem is to develop programs where points of contact and collaboration amongst existing programs are possible. The Provost closed by indicating that he attended a conference recently that convinced him the demand for general liberal arts degrees is on the rise in the United States, with less restriction and specialization. Mount Allison does this superbly well, and is poised to be on the crest of that wave of renewal. The President noted that the Provost’s idea is motivated by a drive to engage interdisciplinarity possible amongst our programs.

J. Dryden said B. Walters’ point about the conflicting approaches to innovation is apt, and agreed with K. Bell that Faculty Council would be a good place for discussions of potential program collaborations. Speaking from experience, Dryden said it is possible but challenging for her small department (Philosophy) to contribute to a lot of other programs. Dryden noted the new HLTH program was built with interdisciplinarity in mind, but also with a plan for ‘net new’ faculty. For some innovative programs to exist and grow as planned the university needs to invest in them.

M. Levesque echoed J. Dryden’s comments, and indicated that perhaps we need to be more critical about choosing new programs. If we can’t fund a new program, we shouldn’t pitch them. Levesque said he was on a recent review team for a policy program which had been approved with a complement of 5 faculty, and they are currently still working with a single initial faculty member struggling to offer the program.

T. Reiffenstein echoed others’ comments in support. He recalled that Senate used to reject a lot of program proposals, precisely with an eye to tensions between new growth and preserving existing programs. It is work Senate has been capable of doing very well. He said he agrees broadly with the Provost’s present message that we need to pause and reflect about what we are offering, what we are trying to offer, and why.

V. Meli said we don’t have information on which programs are bringing in revenue, and some data would certainly help some people make these sorts of structural estimations of their programs. The Provost agreed, and thanked everyone for engaged discussion.

07.02.07 Report from Academic Matters, Curriculum & Academic (J. Hennessy)

**Motion (J. Hennessy / V. St. Pierre): To treat the changes proposed to programs by the Academic Matters, Curriculum & Academic report for this meeting as omnibus.**

**Motion carried**

**Motion (J. Hennessy / V. St. Pierre): The Academic Matters, Curriculum & Academic Committee moves that Senate approve the changes to Computer Science and Music, the Certificate in Arts Administration, Biology, Philosophy, History, and Canadian Studies, as described in the report for the 2023-24 academic calendar.**

**Motion carried**

08.02.07 Discover Mt.A

V. St. Pierre announced the following items:

Dr. Ilaria Battiloro has been chosen to perform the Classical Association of Canada’s central (Ontario & Québec) lecture tour for the coming year.

Dr. Barbara Scarfo (Classics) is giving a public lecture on Representations of Mothers and Infants on Classical Attic Funerary Monuments, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 4:30pm at the Owens Gallery.

Screen Studies is hosting a screening of Jessica Brown and Jackie Torrens' *Bernie Langille Wants to Know What Happened to Bernie Langille* followed by a Zoom Q&A with the filmmakers on Feb. 16, from 5:00-7:30pm in the Motyer-Fancy Theatre.

The annual Davidson Lecture in Canadian Studies will be delivered by Dr. Charmaine Nelson, Director of the Slavery North Initiative and Professor in the Department of History of Art and Architecture at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. March 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm in the Windsor Grand Room.

W.P. Bell Postdoctoral Fellow Dr. Sharifa Patel will give a talk called "Colonial Legacies in Contemporary Canadian Policy: The Settler-Colonial State Order and the Fracturing of Newcomer Muslim Families", March 23 at 4:30pm in the Windsor Grand Room.

The Commerce Executive in Residence, David Cannon, will host an event on Thursday, March 23, 2:00pm-4:30pm, with networking until 5:30pm. The event is called "Masterclass: Managing People at Work."

J. Tomes announced the following:

Congratulations to Dr. Vett Lloyd (Biology) who was awarded a Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal.

'Mt.A. Hacks', a hack-a-thon designed for undergraduate and high school students, is returning to campus on March 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Maggie Kerr and her team of student organizers running the event for the first time since the start of the pandemic.

Dr. Jill Rourke (Chem/Biochem) and Sun Min Park (Bell Scholar Intern) welcomed 33 kindergarteners and first-graders to campus for a daylong STEAM learning initiative, as part of the Together Time program research led by Dr. Susie Andrews and Dr. Carla VanBeselaere. Thanks to Liza Barney for running the microscope station, and thanks to all researchers and funders of this intergenerational literacies program.

A Kangaroo Math Competition is being held on campus on March 19 for grades 1 through 12. Thanks to Ryan Tifenbach from the Math/CS department for organizing.

The next and final President's Speaker Series is scheduled for Tuesday March 1 at 7pm, in Crabtree auditorium (hybrid event). Dr. James Makokis and Anthony Johnson will be giving a talk titled 'Day in the Life of a Modern Warrior'.

R. Minocha-McKenney announced the following:

Congratulations to the Garnet and Gold Society for their successful run of High School Musical.

Welcome to new Senator Liam Clark-Black. Liam is a first-year student in PPE, a varsity soccer player, and resident of Campbell Hall.

N. Vogan extended congratulations to Carolle de Ste-Croix and to Dr. Janet Hammock as recipients of a Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal.

09.02.07      Other business

There was no other business.

10.02.07      Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robbie Moser  
Secretary