

MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY  
MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

December 5, 2023, 4:00pm  
Windsor Grand Room & Microsoft Teams (hybrid format)

Present: N. Anthonisen, C. Brett (Secretary), P. Brown, R. Bruening, B. Clayton, J. Devine, S. Dewolfe, B. Evans, S. Fanning, D. Fleming, C. Forstall, A. Francis, L. Garnett, D. Hamilton, M. Hamilton, O. Hart, M. Hashemi, K. Hele, R. Inglis, C. Ionescu, K. Johnston, L. Landon, Y. Ma, C. MacDougall, R. MacKinnon (Chair), R. Majithia, C. Major, I. McCardle, V. Meli, L. Michaelis, R. Minocha-McKenney, G. Ouellette, C. Pringle-Carver, T. Reiffenstein, R. Rubin, S. Runge, S. Scott, C. Sinclair, V. St. Pierre (Vice-Chair), E. Steuter, J. Tomes, N. Vogan, B. Walters, A. Warr, W. Wilson

Guests: E. Archibald, M. Cameron, L. Decker Hawthorne

Regrets: A. Fancy, L. Keliher

01.12.05 Territorial Acknowledgement

R. MacKinnon 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.

02.12.05 Approval of agenda

**Motion (I. McCardle/ O. Hart): that Senate adopt the agenda as presented.**

**Motion carried**

03.12.05 Consent Agenda (V. St. Pierre/ W. Wilson)  
a. Approval of the minutes (November 7, 2023)  
b. Discover Mount Allison

**Approved without discussion**

04.12.05 Business arising from the minutes

R. MacKinnon informed Senate that the Senate Agenda Committee discussed the issue of simultaneous online and in-person voting at its meeting on November 22. He then outlined a method to be tried at the current meeting. Voting will normally be done by show of hands, with online voters using the hand-up function in Teams. The display at the in-person meeting will be

set to show the votes of online participants. T. Reiffenstein asked if the hand-up was ambiguous and L. Michaelis noted that the screen might not show all online votes. C. Brett answered that he would attempt to disambiguate the hands and would scroll, if asked, to display any missing online votes.

05.12.05 Chair's remarks

R. MacKinnon informed Senate that he continues to meet and interact with faculty, staff, and students, including meeting with Science Heads and giving a lecture in a geography class. He has invited international students staying on campus to a time at Hammond House.

The Chair informed Senate that the Budget Development Group has been formed, with representation from the Vice Presidents, faculty, staff, and students.

The President informed Senate that work on the library project continues, with an update likely in the New Year. T. Reiffenstein asked whether the project will retain the title Innovation Hub. R. MacKinnon replied that there is no update on the name at this time.

R. MacKinnon wished everyone a relaxing holiday season.

06.12.05 Report from University Planning Committee

V. St. Pierre gave an oral report. She noted that the committee has received updates on program reviews from Physics, the BSc in Aviation, English, and Women's and Gender Studies. The committee is also reviewing the internal procedures around external reviews.

In response to a question by E. Steuter, V. St. Pierre stated that there is no update on the requested tenure-track position in Health.

07.12.05 Report from the Academic Matters (Curriculum) Committee

**Motion (V. St. Pierre/C. Major): that Senate approve the changes to courses, academic regulations, and academic programs as outlined in the Academic Matters Committee Report for Senate, December 5, 2023.**

**Motion carried, as amended below**

V. St. Pierre noted that there were some typos, communicated by L. Keliher, in the report. W. Wilson also noted a typo. Considering the corrections, the following motion was introduced.

**Motion (V. St. Pierre/C. Forstall): that the report of the Academic Matters Committee Report for Senate, December 5, 2023, be amended to remove the typos.**

**Motion carried**

08.12.05 Report from the Committee on Committees

**Motion (S. Runge / C. Ionescu): The Committee on Committees moves that Senate acclaim the following nominees to the committees indicated for a term commencing January 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2026, or until a sabbatical or other leave.**

**Motion carried**

The Academic Integrity Committee

1 faculty member or librarian

**Karen Crosby**

1 alternate faculty member or librarian

**Catherine Lovekin**

The International Programs Committee

1 faculty member or librarian

**Andrew Nurse**

The Research Ethics Board

1 faculty member or librarian, preferably with broad expertise in the methods or areas of research that are covered by the REB, or who is knowledgeable in ethics

**Morgan Poteet**

The Scholarships and Bursaries Committee

1 faculty member or librarian

**Patricia Kelly-Spurles**

The Teaching and Learning Committee

1 faculty member from the Faculty of Arts

**Anne Koval**

**Motion (S. Runge/ C. Ionescu): The Committee on Committees moves that Senate elect ONE of the following nominees to the Academic Matters (Curriculum and Academic) Committee for a term commencing January 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2026, or until a sabbatical or other leave:**

**Motion carried**

Roopen Majithia

Alan Dodson

Subsequently, Senate elected Roopen Majithia to the committee by secret ballot.

09.12.05 Election to the Committee on Committees

C. Brett reported that no nominations were received. He will re-issue the call for nominations.

10.12.05 Report from the Academic Matters (Regulations) Committee

**Motion (V. St. Pierre/C. Major): that Senate approve the changes the English requirements for admissions as outlined in the Academic Matters Committee (Regulations) Report for Senate, December 5, 2023.**

**Motion carried**

V. St. Pierre noted that these changes update the Academic Calendar to reflect changes in the delivery and scoring of standardized tests of English language proficiency.

M. Cameron, International Recruitment and Admissions Manager, then answered questions from senators. First, M. Cameron noted that these requirements are administered at the time of admission. In response to a question from J. Devine, M. Cameron noted that the revisions are not a lowering of standards, but a shift to new, equivalent scoring systems. Moreover, the new regulations add sub-score requirements. In response to questions by R. MacKinnon, M. Cameron clarified the use of the internet based TOEFL (IBT) scores and noted that the university has a process for admission conditional on language proficiency. M. Cameron then described the Summer Pathway program, an on-line language upgrading opportunity provided in partnership with NBCC. T. Reiffenstein asked how many Mount Allison students enrol in this program. M. Cameron informed Senate that there were eight during Summer 2023.

V. St. Pierre then presented two draft Provisional Calendars of Events for 2024-25. Both versions featured replacing the Day of Learning (formerly on the Tuesday after Labour Day) with enhanced academic orientation on the Friday before Labour Day. One version had the Fall Study Break occurring in the week starting with Thanksgiving; the other, the Fall Break overlapping with Remembrance Day. The Provost noted that the committee would like to take a straw poll of Senate to determine its preference on the placement of the Fall Study Break.

The discussion of the proposed calendars touched on the following issues:

The removal of the Day of Learning

O. Hart and S. Scott expressed opposition to removing the Day of Learning from the Academic Calendar. O. Hart noted that moving academic orientation to the Friday before Labour Day creates a conflict with residence move-in day. With students busy moving into residence, they may opt out of academic orientation. S. Scott added that move-in typically takes six hours, so finding four hours to academic orientation on the same day seems infeasible. He also doubted the availability of student volunteers to staff move-in and academic orientation on the same day.

The number of fill-in “Mondays” during the last week of classes

Both versions of the calendar would have to deal with three Mondays without classes (Labour Day, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, and one of Thanksgiving or Remembrance Day). This would create three Monday-scheduled teaching days in the last week. Removing one of these would create a less hectic week in Monday-only classes but would result in 11 teaching Mondays instead of the usual 12. M. Hamilton and V. Meli argued against reducing the number of teaching Mondays. V. Meli also noted that dropping one of the make-up Mondays could make it impossible for students in some courses to accumulate sufficient lab hours for accreditation.

General discussion of the Fall Study Break

L. Michaelis asked why the proposed change to the Fall Study Break included the overlap with Thanksgiving rather than any other week. V. St. Pierre responding that the break is usually tied to a holiday. M. Hamilton said that he prefers to have extra teaching days in the term to any break at all. V. Meli wondered if a two-day break, perhaps at Thanksgiving, would be better. Peter Brown noted that the university used to have a two-day break near Remembrance Day.

The arguments for having the break in October

C. Major noted that an October break would occur in the seventh week of term, much like the Winter Break. She also noted that an October break would include the Fall Open House, and there may be advantages to holding the Open House outside of class time. B. Clayton noted that holding a break in the middle of term would counter a tendency she has observed for students to have a hard time refocusing for the final two weeks of term after a break in mid-November. L. Garnett noted that students in Fine Arts expressed a preference for a break in October. T. Reiffenstein noted that a November leaves very little time post-break for larger course projects.

The arguments for having the break in November

O. Hart underscored the benefits to students of a Fall Study Break, including providing space for catch-up and overall mental health. In her view, a break later in the term maximizes these benefits. T. Reiffenstein whether the Fall Open House would need to be moved if the break were in October. S. Runge asked whether an October break would become the new norm. V. St. Pierre answered that it would be for 2024 only. S. Runge responded that it would be better to have the break in roughly the same point in the term each year to aid with planning of events, especially in the Department of Music.

The Straw Poll

Senators then engaged in a straw poll to gauge the preferred timing of the Fall Study Break. The results were: 16 senators in favour of the October break and 13 in favour of the November break.

J. Devine noted that he will need more time to consider the options.

V. St. Pierre undertook to relay Senate's discussion to the committee.

11.12.05 Report from the Honorary Degrees Committee (in camera)

12.12.05 Other Business

There was no other business.

13.12.05 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm, as moved by V. St. Pierre.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Brett  
Secretary