

MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY
MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

February 6, 2024, 4:00pm
Windsor Grand Room & Microsoft Teams (hybrid format)

Present: N. Anthonisen, C. Brett (Secretary), P. Brown, R. Bruening, B. Clayton, G. Desmarais, J. Devine, S. Dewolfe, J. Dryden, E. Edson, B. Evans, A. Fancy, S. Fanning, A. Francis, D. Hamilton, M. Hamilton, O. Hart, M. Hashemi, C. Ionescu, L. Kern, L. Landon, R. MacKinnon (Chair), R. Majithia, I. McCardle, V. Meli, L. Michaelis, R. Minocha-McKenney, T. Reiffenstein, B. Robertson, S. Runge, S. Scott, V. St. Pierre (Vice-Chair), E. Steuter, J. Tomes, K. Ulkuer, N. Vogan, B. Walters

Guest: J. Mullen

01.02.06 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.

02.02.06 Approval of agenda

Motion (J. Devine/I. McCardle): that Senate adopt the agenda as presented.

Motion carried

03.02.06 Use of the Microsoft Teams chat function during meetings

C. Brett suggested protocols for the use of chat during meetings. Senators attending online could use chat to request to speak. Once recognized by the Chair, the Senator would then turn on their camera and microphone to address Senate. Should circumstances prevent this, the Senator could make their statement in the chat function, which would then be read to the meeting and could be minuted. C. Brett noted that the use of the chat function to carry out conversations without recognition of the Chair is akin to carrying out a side conversation in person, an action that contravenes Bourinot's rules of order.

J. Dryden asked whether the chat could also be used to signal problems with online communication or other technical problems during meetings. R. MacKinnon answered that this use of Teams chat would be ruled in order.

04.02.06 Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of the minutes (January 9, 2024)
- b. Discover Mount Allison

Approved without discussion

05.02.06 Business arising from the minutes

There was no business arising.

05.02.06 Chair's remarks

R. MacKinnon welcomed K. Ulkuer, the Interim Registrar, to Senate.

The President reported that the Government of Canada has capped the number of student visas, but the university awaits clarity on its allocation of visas and the procedures by which visas for income students will be administered.

R. MacKinnon thanked those who attended the recent update on the HIL and Library project. He noted the addition of an Interim Library to the plans.

The Chair noted that February is Black History Month and acknowledged the university's kick-off event on January 28.

The President reported that he toured studios in the Purdy Crawford Centre and attended a student exhibition and workshop at the Struts Gallery.

R. MacKinnon informed Senate that the subcommittee of the Honorary Degrees Committee looking into procedures for the granting honorary degrees has reported the full committee. He expects that the committee will report to Senate at its next meeting.

Finally, the President is scheduled to attend a meeting of the presidents of New Brunswick universities and colleges. Student visas are likely to be among the topics of discussion.

06.02.07 Report from University Planning Committee

V. St. Pierre gave an oral report. She noted that committee continues to work on its review Policy 5900 on Academic Unit Reviews. In its upcoming meetings, the committee will receive midterm reports from departments in response to previous reviews.

08.02.06 Report from the Academic Matters (Regulations) Committee

Motion (V. St. Pierre/K. Ulkuer): that Senate approve of the 2025/26 Provisional Calendar of Events as presented by the Academic Matters Committee (Regulations).

Motion carried

P. Brown asked whether the timing of study break for Fall 2025 would be up for discussion. V. St. Pierre answered that she views the matter of the Fall Study Break settled, with plans to keep the break in November.

M. Hamilton noted that classes end fairly early in April and wondered if it would be possible to schedule contingency days in the Winter term for storm days. V. St. Pierre noted that the number of storm days is likely to vary across years, making the determination of the correct number of contingency days a challenge.

09.02.06 Report from the Academic Integrity Committee

Motion (J. Tomes/V. St. Pierre): that Senate approve the changes to Policy 5500 (3.2.c and 7.3.1.e, to allow the Meighen Centre to be notified if an Academic Integrity Report involves an incident that was related to a granted accommodation) as circulated.

Motion carried

L. Michaelis asked whether this change would apply to incidents occurring at the Meighen Centre. J. Tomes answered that this is one possibility, but that there are course-related accommodations other than testing to which the amended regulation could apply.

10.02.06 Other Business

T. Reiffenstein thanked the Deans for circulation guidance on whether to cancel classes or move them online during a storm day. V. St. Pierre noted that it would be possible to move classes online during a campus closure, but not during a university closure. The Provost added that instructors have the choice to move classes online and can indicate on their syllabi what they plan to do.

L. Michaelis said that she found the email in question ambiguous, that it made her unsure whether she should cancel class, and that she did not know who was responsible for informing students. J. Dryden said that she liked that the message made it clear that instructors had autonomy over whether to move class online or cancel. O. Hart agreed that instructors should have flexibility but asked that storm day procedures be made clear for students. In particular, she asked that students be informed about what to do if not contacted by their instructors. J. Tomes also agreed with J. Dryden, adding that if a test is cancelled due to a storm day, the expectation is that the test be held on the next class day.

R. Rubin expressed regret that the message to faculty was sent on the storm day itself, and not sooner.

L. Michaelis noted that faculty choice can lead to pressure for instructors to move classes online. She would like to see the issue taken up as part of conversation about when to use online teaching. B. Clayton agreed that it makes sense to have a wider discussion about the role of online teaching. V. St. Pierre noted that this could be discussed at Faculty Council, while A. Fancy noted that the Senate Teaching and Learning Committee might also take up the issue. V.

Meli, Chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee, said that she would ask the committee to look into the matter of online teaching.

11.02.06 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:43 pm, as moved by V. St. Pierre.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Brett
Secretary