

MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY
MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

March 12, 2024, 4:00pm
Windsor Grand Room & Microsoft Teams (hybrid format)

Present: N. Anthonisen, C. Brett (Secretary), P. Brown, R. Bruening, B. Clayton, A. Comfort, G. Desmarais, J. Devine, S. Dewolfe, J. Dryden, E. Edson, B. Evans, S. Fanning, A. Francis, D. Hamilton, M. Hamilton, O. Hart, M. Hashemi, K. Hele, W. Hunt, R. Inglis, C. Ionescu, B. Jewett, L. Kern, L. Landon, R. MacKinnon (Chair), I. McCardle, V. Meli, R. Minocha-McKenney, C. Pringle-Carver, T. Reiffenstein, B. Robertson, R. Rubin, S. Runge, S. Scott, C. Sinclair, V. St. Pierre (Vice-Chair), E. Steuter, J. Tomes, K. Ulkuer, M. Vicaire, N. Vogan, G. Waldron, A. Warr, B. Walters, W. Wilson

Regrets: A. Fancy, R. Majithia, L. Michaelis

01.03.12 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.

02.03.12 Approval of agenda

Motion (O. Hart/B. Walters): that Senate adopt the agenda as presented.

Motion carried

03.03.12 Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of the minutes (February 6, 2024)
- b. Report from the Committee on Emeritus Appointments
- c. Discover Mount Allison

Approved without discussion

04.03.12 Business arising from the minutes (none)

05.03.12 Chair's remarks

R. MacKinnon thanked the Department of Politics and International Relations for the opportunity to meet and attend a session by Ambassador of Latvia Mr. Kaspars Ozoliņš on March 12. He also highlighted a reception for Mount Allison's Academic All Canadian athletics

at Hammond House on March 4, and the upcoming CCAA Men's Basketball National Championship, March 13-16. The chair also reminded senators of the President's Speakers Series featuring Doug Murphy, President and CEO of Corus Entertainment, on March 7 and Kim TallBear, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Peoples, Technoscience, and Society at the University of Alberta, on March 14.

R. MacKinnon noted that discussions around the university budget continue.

The President informed Senate that the incoming President, Dr. Ian Sutherland, will start on July 15. In addition, the search for a new Provost and Vice-President, Academic and Research is underway with the participation of search consultants Royer Thompson.

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, with a plan to bring a revised policy to the next meeting of Senate.

07.03.12 Report from the Academic Matters Committee (Curriculum and Programs)

Motion (V. St. Pierre/K. Ulkuer): that Senate approve changes to course and programs as outlined in the Report from the Academic Matters Committee (Curriculum and Programs) dated March 12, 2024.

Motion carried

V. St. Pierre thanked the committee for its work throughout the year.

08.03.12 Report from the Committee on Committees

Motion (S. Runge/ C. Ionescu): The Committee on Committees moves that Senate acclaim the following students to the following Senate Committees for terms beginning immediately and ending April 30, 2024:

The Academic Appeals Committee

Grace Waldron

Cole Sinclair

The Graduation Review Committee

Grace Waldron

Motion carried

09.03.12 Report from the International Programs Committee

Motion (V. St. Pierre/ S. Fanning): that Senate approve the Agreement of the Exchange of Students between Mount Allison University and Galen University as circulated.

Motion carried

V. St. Pierre noted that there is an existing field course that operates as a partnership between Galen University and the Maple League. S. Runge noted an incomplete bullet point in the agreement. V. St. Pierre promised to check this before the agreement is signed.

10.02.12 Report from the Honorary Degrees Committee

R. MacKinnon informed Senate that a subcommittee of the Honorary Degrees Committee consisting of two faculty members, two members of the Board of Regents, and the President met in December and February to review the process for nominating candidates for Honorary Degrees. Its work included reviewing the current nomination form and processes and comparing these to forms and processes at other universities and award-granting bodies such as the Orders of Canada and New Brunswick and the Royal Society of Canada. The Honorary Degrees committee met on March 6 to consider a report from the subcommittee.

The committee is recommending the following changes to the protocols used to consider candidates for honorary degrees:

- That a call for nominations be issued in September, with each nominee considered at two meetings of the Honorary Degrees Committee, one in October and the other in November. If it deems it necessary, the committee can seek additional information from nominators between the October and November meetings.
- Unlike current practice, the committee will not consider applications with some portions of the form incomplete. If the committee deems a form incomplete, it will give nominators a chance to provide the missing information.
- Nominations must include a detailed statement of the reasons why the nominators think the honorary degree should be granted.
- The committee will ask for two letters of support in addition to the completed form.
- Before recommendations come to Senate, candidates will be subject to a background check by a human resources firm. This check will include a scan of media reports, social media activity, and any public information about litigations. The report will be sent to the Honorary Degrees Committee.
- Once the President has selected candidates to invite to Convocation, the university will ask for an attestation letter in which the candidate agrees to uphold the values of Mount Allison and acknowledge that the university can rescind the degree. The committee is currently seeking legal advice on the exact wording of any such attestation.

R. MacKinnon said that these procedures would apply to any new nominations.

T. Reiffenstein thanked the committee for its work. He asked whether candidates would be considered at a single meeting of Senate, as is current practice. R. MacKinnon answered that candidates will be considered at a single meeting of Senate. The additional steps in the process will be carried out at the committee stage.

J. Devine welcomed the two-step process and additional letter requirements at the committee stage. He suggested that how Senate approves nominations is a matter for Senate, not the committee.

B. Walters doubted the wisdom of using a human resources firm for screening and asked what it would cost. He also asked if we carry out such checks for administrative hiring. R. MacKinnon answered that searches for the president, vice-presidents, and deans include a background check more detailed than the one envisioned for candidates for honorary degrees. He noted that the checks will be done on candidates whom the committee wishes to bring forward to Senate, not on all nominees. This would help to minimize the costs of checks.

N. Vogan, citing past practice of having fewer than six honorary degree recipients per year, asked whether it makes sense to reduce the number recipients to two per convocation, with a corresponding reduction in the number of candidates. R. MacKinnon responded that the number or recipients is not fixed, nor is the number of candidates brought to Senate. The committee attempts to bring forward deserving candidates from the nominees, whatever the number.

O. Hart asked how it is to be determined that a recipient upholds the values of Mount Allison. R. MacKinnon noted that the committee is seeking legal advice on this issue. He also noted that this raises the issue of revocation policy. The subcommittee made no recommendation on such a policy, but thinks the issue needs further work.

S. Scott asked that students be involved in the rescinding process. R. MacKinnon noted that there is student representation on the Honorary Degrees Committee, which will be responsible for developing such a policy.

B. Evans responded that a Senate vote to rescind an honorary degree could be a criterion for rescinding. R. MacKinnon recognized this possibility, adding that a process to guide the deliberation of Senate on the matter might be needed.

R. MacKinnon concluded by noting that the proposed changes would, in his opinion, improved the process for selecting candidates for honorary degrees. In particular, he noted that the committee will have more information on nominees and greater opportunity to consider those nominations before bringing them to Senate.

11.03.12 Other Business (none)

12.03.12 Consideration of Candidates for Honorary Degrees

Motion (V. St. Pierre/ B. Robertson): that Senate move *in camera* for the purpose of considering candidates for honorary degrees.

Motion carried

13.03.12 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:22 pm, as moved by M. Hashemi.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Brett, Secretary