

MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY  
MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

December 3, 2019, 4:00 p.m.  
Windsor Grand Room

Present: P. Berry, A. Beverley, B. Blakney, C. Brett (Secretary), O. Corrigan, J. Devine, S. Doyle, J. Dryden, B. Evans, A. Fancy, N. Farooqi, C. Forstall, S. Garrett, A. Grant, D. Hamilton, L-D, Hamilton, K. Hele, D. Hornidge, R. Inglis, C. Ionescu, D. Keeping, L. Kern, R. Lapp, M. Lee, D. Lieske, M. Litvak, K. Meade, J. Mullen, A. Nurse, C. O'Connor, L. Ricker, J. Rogers, S. Runge, E. Steuter, E. Stregger, E. Titarenko, J. Tomes, S. Unger, J. Vickery, N. Vogan, K. Wilock, W. Wilson

Regrets: F. Black, JP. Boudreau, A. Cockshutt, E. Edson, J. Holton, J. Ollerhead, J. Rogers, V. St. Pierre, W. Wilson

Observers: A. Christie, L. Hawthorne, C. Maston, T. Reiffenstein, K. Steeves, R. Walker

01.12.03 Land Acknowledgement

C. Brett read the land acknowledgement.

02.12.03 Election of Chair *pro tem* and Approval of the Agenda

In the absence of JP. Boudreau and J. Ollerhead, C. Brett called for nominations for a Chair *pro tem*. M. Litvak nominated A. Nurse to chair the meeting. There were no further nominations.

A. Nurse then assumed the Chair.

**Motion (N. Farooqi/C. Ionescu): that Senate adopt the Agenda as circulated, with the deletion of items 7, Provisional Calendar of Events, and 10, Reports for Information.**

**Motion Carried**

Materials for deleted items were not available. These items will be brought to a later meeting of Seante.

03.12.03 Approval of the Senate Minutes of November 5, 2019

**Motion (S. Unger/N. Vogan): that Senate adopt the Minutes of the meeting of November 5, 2019.**

**Motion Carried  
(1 abstention)**

04.12.03 Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising.

05.12.03 Report from the Chair

A. Nurse invited Senators to a town hall meeting on December 11 regarding the searches for a new Provost and a new Dean of Arts. He also invited everyone to the University Holiday Social on December 13

06.12.03 Report from the University Planning Committee

Senate received the report as circulated (appended to these minutes), without comments or questions.

07.12.03 Report from the Academic Matters Committee

N. Farooqi and S. Garrett gave the report (appended to these minutes), which consisted for the following motions.

**Motion (N. Farooqi/S. Unger): that Senate approve the changes to Academic Regulation 10.9.2 regarding the Deans' List as outlined in the Report to Senate, December 3, 2019.**

**Motion Carried**  
(1 nay vote)

**Motion (N. Farooqi/K. Wilock): that Senate approve the changes to Academic Regulation 10.10.4 regarding the Honours GPA and overall GPA requirements as outlined in the Report to Senate, December 3, 2019 (effective under the January publication of the 2019-2020 calendar).**

**Motion Carried**

A. Fancy asked whether the proposed changes to distribution requirements (later in the committee's report) would necessitate changes to the wording of this regulation. S. Garrett answered that it may, but that appropriate housekeeping changes would be carried out.

**Motion (N. Farooqi/J. Devine): that Senate approve the addition of Special Topics courses in Social Sciences as outlined in the Report to Senate, December 3.**

**Motion Carried**  
(1 abstention)

E. Steuter noted that the Academic Matters Committee is considering general changes to regulations around Special Topics courses. She asked whether these would have an impact on the proposed Special Topics in Social Sciences courses. S. Garrett answered that this may well prove to be the case, but that any subsequent changes would need separate approval.

**Motion (N. Farooqi/S. Garrett): that Senate approve the changes to the Physics program as outlined in the Report to Senate, December 3.**

**Motion Carried**

**Motion (N. Farooqi/S. Unger): that Senate approve the changes to the Canadian and Indigenous Studies programs as outlined in the Report to Senate, December 3,**

**Motion Carried**

D. Lieske commented that it is usual to specify a complete course code for a new course, rather than to denote the final three digits by XXX, as is done in this proposal. S. Garrett replied that the decision on the final numbers will be made once the course sequencing is finalized.

**Motion (N. Farooqi/S. Doyle): that Senate approve the addition of a major in Women's and Gender Studies, the addition an honours in Women's and Gender studies, the addition of courses in Women's and Gender Studies, and associated changes in course descriptions, all as outlined in the Report to Senate, December 3.**

**Motion Carried**

S. Garrett noted that recent additions to staffing in Women's and Gender Studies render the new programs viable. The new programs require MPHEC approval.

**Motion (N. Farooqi/K. Wilock): that Senate approve the chages to Academic Regulation 11.11.3 regarding Academic Credit for Independent Experiential Learning as outlined in the Report to Senate, December 3, 2019 (effective under the January publication of the 2019-2020 calendar).**

**Motion Withdrawn and Referred to the Committee**

There was a wide-ranging discussion on this motion, with a substantive disagreement over whether credit should be given when a student applies after the experiential learning activity has been completed.

N. Farooqi argued that granting credit after-the-fact gives a mechanism to recognize experiential learning opportunities that arise unexpectedly. E. Steuter supported the motion, citing the example of a student who is unexpectedly given added responsibilities in the middle of a summer job where those responsibilities are of the sort that would typically qualify for an experiential learning credit.

J. Devine opposed the motion. He argued that the forethought is an essential component of an experiential learning project, which is needed to situate the experience in an academic context. He expressed concern that students may use the possibility of getting credit after an experience as a way to avoid the rigors of the current process. He also worried that faculty may feel pressured into granting credit.

J. Dryden and M. Litvak agreed with J. Devine. J. Dryden also asked why the proposal makes no mention of applying for credit during an experience. K. Hele expressed support for the idea of applying during an experience rather than after. D. Hamilton asked if it is possible to develop the plans called for by the current policy after an experience has ended. R. Lapp noted that the current policy allows for some retrospective elements.

S. Unger responded that the current process may take months, which may rule out many credit-worthy experiences. He noted that the proposed changes would maintain the role of faculty in determining the academic merit of a project. Current forms and processes can provide guidance on how to evaluate experiences after-the-fact. E. Titarenko stated that the after-the-fact process seemed as difficult for students as the current process.

S. Garrett noted that current regulations allow for after-the-fact credit if a student can arrange for a 4951 course on the subject.

E. Titarenko asked if other universities had similar arrangements for applying for credit at the end of a learning experience. K. Steeves responding that this is sometimes true of co-op programs. The current proposal, she noted, was an attempt to adapt that kind of thinking to the Mount Allison context. E. Titarenko also asked whether the current proposal is motivated by student recruitment. K. Meade answered that the proposal seeks to give credit wherever appropriate learning outcomes have been achieved, as determined by the assessment of faculty.

J. Tomes noted that the proposal appears to treat after-the-fact application as equivalent to pre-experience application.

J. Devine responded to the discussion by noting that fleeting opportunities would be best dealt with by an expedited process rather than applying upon completion of an experience.

N. Farooqi noted that the proposed changes could be improved by adding guidelines specific to the after-the-fact application for credit and by considering an expedited process for unexpected opportunities.

Senators also engaged in a discussion aimed at clarifying current practice and regulations.

A. Nurse suggested that the motion be withdrawn. N. Farooqi did so, noting that the committee would reconsider the issue in light of the comments of Senators.

**Motion (N. Farooqi/J. Vickery): that Senate approve the changes to the Bachelor of Science with Aviation program as outlined in the Report to Senate, December 3 (effective under the January publication of the 2019-2020 calendar).**

**Motion Carried**

S. Garrett noted that the proposed changes make program requirements align with flight training requirements, and make these requirements clearer to students.

**Motion (N. Farooqi/R. Lapp): that Senate approve the changes to the Bachelor of Commerce with Aviation with the Moncton Flight College program as outlined in the Report to Senate, December 3 (effective under the January publication of the 2019-2020 calendar).**

**Motion Carried**

**Motion (N. Farooqi/S. Unger): that Senate approve the changes to Academic Regulations 11.2.2 and 11.3.2 concerning distribution requirements as outlined in the Report to Senate, December 3 (effective under the January publication of the 2019-2020 calendar).**

**Motion Carried**

S. Unger commented that students are in favour of the changes, noting that they find the current system cumbersome and difficult to plan for. J. Dryden asked why courses with the designations ARTS, SOSC, and SCIE are not included in the courses available for distribution credit. S.

Garrett replied that these courses have a '991 designation and such courses are typically excluded from distribution. A. Fancy asked whether there would be any issues in transition to the proposed system. S. Garrett answered that students may graduate under the regulations of any calendar in effect during their time at the university, so current students are not compelled to use the proposed system. K. Hele noted that courses in Indigenous Studies are included in two distribution categories and asked that they be treated in the same way as courses in Visual and Material Culture and Women's and Gender Studies. S. Garrett agreed that this should be the case.

**Motion (N. Farooqi/E. Steuter): that Senate approve the changes to the Sociology program as outlined in the Report to Senate, December 3.**

**Motion Carried**

**Motion (N. Farooqi/D. Lieske): that Senate approve the changes to the Geography and Environment program as outlined in the Report to Senate, December 3.**

**Motion Carried**

D. Lieske highlighted the changes, which include the creation of an Indigenous Environmental Science Minor and the creation of a Environment and Social Justice stream in the Environmental Studies Major.

**Motion (N. Farooqi/L. Ricker): that Senate approve the changes to the Mathematics and Computer Science program as outlined in the Report to Senate, December 3.**

**Motion Carried**

S. Garrett noted that MATH 1311 is a new course and that the proposed changes add it to the options under the Science Core.

**Motion (N. Farooqi/L-D. Hamilton): that Senate approve the changes to the Psychology program as outlined in the Report to Senate, December 3.**

**Motion Carried**

**Motion (N. Farooqi/S. Garrett): that Senate approve the changes to Academic Regulation 10.10.2 concerning academic residency requirements as outlined in the Report to Senate, December 3.**

**Motion Carried**

S. Garrett noted that the change offers more flexibility to transfer students who wish to take part in study abroad or exchange programs.

**Motion (N. Farooqi/J. Vickery): that Senate approve the addition of Academic Regulation 10.4.6 concerning leave of absence as outlined in the Report to Senate, December 3.**

**Motion Carried**

S. Garrett noted that this is Mount Allison's first such policy. A formal leave of absence would be beneficial to international students and to medical service providers. S. Runge asked whether the Department of Music could ask a student who had been on leave to re-audition. S. Garrett answered that the policy contains no provision for this.

D. Lieske and K. Meade then thanked the committee for work in compiling such an extensive report. D. Lieske then asked the committee to consider smaller, more frequent reports in the future. K. Meade urged everyone to start promoting the many newly approved programs and initiatives.

09.12.03      Report from the International Programs Committee

T. Reiffenstein noted that the committee endorsed the idea of bringing this report (appended to these minutes) to Senate. He then asked K. Meade to offer comments.

K. Meade noted that the report is a Student Affairs document and was brought to Senate for information. Its goal is to give structure to the university's efforts in internationalization.

A. Christie invited staff and faculty to participate in an inventory of international connections. He announced that faculty will be invited to complete a survey on their international connections. This survey is still under development, but will be launched in 2020.

R. Lapp asked whether thought had been given to the resource implications of an increased number of international students. M. Litvak asked whether faculty complement would be factored into any such resource planning, adding that he thinks faculty resources should be in place before changes in the number or composition of students are made. K. Meade responded that Student Affairs actively seeks resources to support student transitions. A. Nurse added that the question of appropriate faculty resources should be discussed by the University Planning Committee.

11.12.03      Discover Mount Allison

K. Meade reminded Senators of the vigil on the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, December 6.

12.12.03      Other Business

K. Meade thanked A. Nurse for agreeing to chair the meeting.

13.12.03      Adjournment

There being no further business or announcements, the meeting adjourned at 5:22 pm. (J. Devine)

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Brett  
Secretary