

MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY
MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

January 12, 2021, 4:00 p.m.
via Microsoft Teams

Present via Remote Connection: K. Bell, P. Berry, L. Bidder, F. Black, JP. Boudreau (Chair) A. Beverley, C. Brett (Secretary), K. Bubar, C. Burke, A. Cockshutt, A. Comfort, J. Dryden, E. Edson, B. Evans, A. Fancy, S. Fanning, N. Farooqi, J. Ferguson, A. Grant, D. Hamilton, L-D, Hamilton, M. Hamilton, J. Hennessy (Vice-Chair), C. Ionescu, G. Jollymore, J. Kalyn, D. Keeping, L. Kern, A. Koval, R. Lapp, A. Lepage, M. Levesque, D. Lieske, M. Litvak, C. Lovekin, N. Milliea, C. O'Neal, G. Ouellette, L. Pearse, R. Polegato, C. Roberts, B. Robertson, S. Runge, V. St. Pierre, E. Steuter, E. Stregger, S. Tobin, J. Tomes, C. VanBeselaere, N. Vogan, A. Whiteway, W. Wilson

Regrets: R. Inglis

Observers: L. Decker Hawthorne, R. Hiscock, A. Nurse, F. Turner

01.01.12 Land Acknowledgement

JP. Boudreau reminded Senate that Mount Allison is situated on the unceded Mi'kmaq land. He asked that senators respect and engage in Indigenous ways of knowing, teaching, and relating.

02.01.12 Approval of the Agenda

Motion (V. St. Pierre/N. Farooqi): that Senate adopt the Agenda as circulated.

Motion Carried

03.01.12 Approval of the Senate Minutes of December 8, 2020

Motion (S. Tobin/K. Bell): that Senate adopt the Minutes of the meeting of December 8, 2020.

Motion Carried

04.01.12 Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising.

05.01.12 Report from the Chair

JP. Boudreau informed Senate that Noel Milliea, a member of Elsipogtog First Nation and a Traditional Elder, Knowledge Keeper, and Sweat Lodge Conductor, is the new Senator appointed by the Indigenous Advisory Circle. He thanked K. Hele, who has stepped down from Senate, for his work in that position. J. Hennessy introduced N. Milliea to senators, highlighting his many contributions to universities and government agencies in the region including association with Mount Allison through the Medicine Wheel Course and providing sweat lodge ceremonies. The Provost stated that he believed that the appointment was made in the spirit of reconciliation and in response to the TRC calls to action, and that the appointment of a Mi'kmaq

Elder from this territory to the Senate reflects our shared governance of the unceded land on which Mount Allison sits.

N. Milliea responded that he is happy to serve on Senate and looks forward to learning more about Senate and how he can advise on Indigenous matters.

JP. Boudreau informed Senate that, as of January 12, nearly 750 students had returned and were self-isolating, 278 of whom were in university residences. The university was in daily contact with these students, and self-isolation programming was underway. On campus COVID-19 testing for students was scheduled for January 12 and January 18. Winter 2021 classes are to begin online on January 18, with the plan (as of the meeting of Senate) to start in-person classes on January 25. The President thanked the many people on campus who have helped to organize the largest cohort of self-isolating students at any post-secondary institution in New Brunswick.

The President informed Senate that the university budget for 2021-22 will be developed over the next three months with the participation of a Budget Development Group that will include faculty, staff, and students. He noted that there is a deficit of 1.1 million dollars to address amid continued uncertainty about COVID-related costs, enrollment numbers, and occupancy in student residences. JP. Boudreau noted that there were 660 students in university residences in Fall 2020, with 630 expected for Winter 2021. The Vice President Finance and Administration, R. Inglis, will announce more details of the budgetary process.

JP. Boudreau then informed Senate that an agreement has been reached with a third party, subject to approval by that party's board, to conduct a review of the university's policies and procedures in response to sexual violence. That external party will work with the Sexual Violence Prevention Working Group, co-chaired by Dr. Lisa-Dawn Hamilton and Michelle Roy.

The Chair then asked that senators turn their cameras on to speak during the meeting and that they use the hand-raising function to call attention to their desire to speak. He noted that voiced comments will be minuted, but comments in the chat feature will not.

S. Tobin asked if the COVID-19 testing scheduled for January 18 would be open to students from New Brunswick. A. Comfort answered that this testing is available to students from outside New Brunswick only, as part of self-isolation plans overseen by New Brunswick Public Health. There were no plans to test residents of New Brunswick. Students from New Brunswick should follow provincial guidelines around testing. JP. Boudreau noted that the university continues to work with the Town of Sackville to lobby for a COVID-19 testing centre in Sackville.

06.01.12 Report from the University Planning Committee

J. Hennessy gave a verbal report to Senate. He noted that the committee had not met since the December meeting of Senate, but that it is scheduled to meet again on January 26.

09.01.12 Report from the Academic Matters Committee

N. Farooqi gave the report (appended to these minutes), which consisted of the following motions.

Motion (N. Farooqi/C. Lovekin): that Senate approve the changes in courses in Mathematics and Computer Science as listed in the Report to Senate, January 12, 2021.

Motion Carried

Motion (N. Farooqi/S. Tobin): that Senate approve the changes in courses and programs in Canadian Studies as detailed in the Report to Senate, January 12, 2021.

Motion Carried

M. Hamilton asked for clarification on the nature of the changes. A Beverley answered that there is a change to a course prerequisite and a simpler presentation of degree requirements. J. Hennessy agreed that the new presentation of degree requirements improves clarity.

Motion (N. Farooqi/V. St. Pierre): that Senate approve changes in courses in Religious Studies as listed in the Report to Senate, January 12, 2021.

Motion Carried

Motion (N. Farooqi/V. St. Pierre): that Senate approve the creation of a minor in Visual and Material Cultures program as described in the Report to Senate, January 12, 2021.

Motion Carried

08.01.12 Other Business

E. Steuter voiced disagreement with the Chair's request that senators turn their cameras on when speaking. She noted that this is not the policy recommended in course delivery. She worried that the rule might silence some members. The President responded that the request is not intended to silence anyone, and that it should be viewed as a request for speakers to turn on their camera if they are comfortable in doing so.

M. Hamilton asked whether there would be a motion to use the P/CP/F grading system again in Winter 2021. If so, he urged that any motion not come near the end of the term in hopes that Senate could consider it in a less hasty manner than it did in December 2020. JP. Boudreau agreed that the discussion of grading at the December meeting was chaotic at times. He noted that the issue of grading will be discussed at an upcoming meeting of Faculty Council. J. Hennessy confirmed that the matter will be on the agenda for the January 26 meeting of Faculty Council. The Provost has asked the Registrar's Office to provide data on the use of P/CP/F grading during Fall 2020 in advance of that meeting. The President thanked the Registrar's Office and Faculty Council for agreeing to work on this issue.

The President and the Secretary undertook to work on the technology for conducting votes in Senate in advance of the February meeting.

09.01.12 Adjournment

There being no further business or announcements, the meeting adjourned at 4:41 pm (V. St. Pierre/ S. Tobin).

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Brett
Secretary