

MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY
MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

October 8, 2024, 4:00pm
Windsor Grand Room & Microsoft Teams (hybrid format)

Present: M. Ahmady, I. Andrea, B. Annear, F. Antonelli, Y. Bourgeois, C. Brett (Secretary), B. Broadbent, P. Brown, G. Cruttwell, R. Delaney, J. Devine, S. DeWolfe, E. Doukas, J. Dryden, C. Duguay, S. Fanning, A. Francis, L. Garnett, Q. Guo, D. Hamilton, L.-D. Hamilton., C. Ionescu, R. Isnor (Vice-Chair), B. Jewett, N. Johnston, S. Law, C. MacDougall, R. Majithia, M. Maston, V. Meli, L. Michaelis, E. Millar, C. Milner, R. Minocha-McKenney, K. Morse, A. Nurse, G. Pardy, C. Pringle-Carver, B. Robertson, R. Rubin, K. Souch, V. St. Pierre, I. Sutherland (Chair), J. Tomes, M. Vicare, N. Vogan, G. Waldron, B. Walters, A. Wilson, W. Wilson

Guests: R. Gamm, J. Hahn, C. Mrazek, C. Pomare, G. Sandala

Regrets: R. Bruening, A. Fancy, A. LePage, M. Hashemi

01.10.08 Territorial Acknowledgement

I. Sutherland 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.

02.10.08 Approval of agenda

Motion (B. Robertson/A. Nurse): that Senate adopt the agenda as presented.

Motion carried

03.10.08 Consent Agenda (A. Nurse/ B. Robertson)

- a. Approval of the minutes (September 10, 2024)
- b. Report from the Academic Integrity Committee
- c. Discover Mount Allison

Approved without discussion

I. Sutherland welcomed new student Senators E. Doukas and I. Andrea.

04.10.08 Business arising from the minutes

I. Sutherland noted that the Vice Presidents will serve on the selection committee for the consultants to be hired to assist in strategic planning, along with the President and the co-leads of the Strategic Planning Team.

05.10.08 Report from the Chair

The President highlighted some of the information in a pre-circulated written report and provided some other updates. He thanked those who attended the Senate social at Hammond House and announced plans for a Senate-Board of Regents event on November 14 which will include table discussions by Senators and Regents and a dinner.

I. Sutherland informed Senate that Vice President Finance and Administration R. Inglis is on planned medical leave. He thanked C. Milner for agreeing to be Acting Vice President during this leave. Senators welcomed C. Milner to the post with applause. The President wished R. Inglis well in his treatment and recovery.

The Chair informed Senate that there were 2403 students enrolled, as of October 1, but that the new international student numbers have dropped 41.5% from 2023 to 2024. Should international enrollment continue at that reduced pace, the university may experience an overall 40% reduction in international students, with accompanying loss in student diversity. The relatively high overall student numbers imply that the university is projected to be on-budget for the year, but the budget was for a deficit. The President noted that enrollments increased markedly in Aviation programs. I. Sutherland thanked the Registrar's Office, Recruiting, and Marketing and Communications for their efforts in attracting new students.

The President highlighted some initiatives including a Recruitment and Retention Advisory Group, working toward strategic enrollment plan, a review of International and Student Affairs, a review of student financial aid, and developing a new Health and Wellness Strategy. He noted the ongoing training by Diversio (formerly the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion) and the Seeds of Change bystander training program.

I. Sutherland noted the 10th anniversary of the Purdy Crawford Centre for the Arts and congratulated C. MacDougall, K. Johnston, A. Whynacht, J. Riley, and A. Morash on securing research awards from national granting agencies. He also reminded Senate of the first talk in this year's President's Speaker Series, to be given by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist David M. Shribman at 7:30 p.m. on October 16 in Convocation Hall.

G. Cruttwell asked if a new Budget Director would be hired to take over the duties of C. Milner. C. Milner answered that the Assistant Controller would take on additional duties while C. Milner is Acting Vice President.

G. Cruttwell asked if additional resources will be available to programs in Aviation. I. Sutherland noted that demand for programs in aviation is likely to remain strong. R. Isnor added

that the university is working on a new memorandum of understanding with Moncton Flight College, which may provide additional resources for the program.

Q. Guo asked if international student fees are approximately double fees for domestic students and for further details on first-year international student numbers. C. Milner confirmed that international fees are approximately double those for domestic students. He also noted that there are currently 315 international students enrolled at Mount Allison, of which 62 are new. Last year, there were 108 new international students.

G. Waldron reminded Senators of the University Open House, scheduled for October 18.

06.10.08 Candidates for Degrees — October graduation

Motion (B. Robertson/ G. Cruttwell): that Senate move in camera for the purpose of considering candidates for degrees.

Senate considered candidates for degrees *in camera*.

Motion (B. Robertson/ G. Cruttwell): that Senate move ex camera.

07.10.08 Fall Convocation

I. Sutherland declared Convocation open. As Vice-Chancellor, the President then conferred degrees *in absentia* to the candidates whom Senate had approved. I. Sutherland then declared Convocation closed.

08.10.08 Report from University Planning Committee

R. Isnor gave an oral report. He noted that the committee has been considering requests for new and replacement positions. The committee received 18 applications for faculty and 3 for instructors or librarians. After meetings with heads, directors, and the Chair of Library Council and two rounds of committee votes, relative priorities are coming into focus. The Provost will meet with the Vice President Finance and Administration to determine the number of positions that can be filled. R. Isnor characterized the committee discussions as difficult, but excellent.

L. Michaelis asked how many of the position requests were for replacements and how many were net new. R. Isnor answered that approximately half were net-new, but that classification of requests is imprecise because the nature of replacement differs across applications.

09.10.08 Strategic Planning Update

The President noted that this will be a standing item on the Senate Agenda while the strategic planning process unfolds. Since the last meeting of Senate, the co-leads of the process have been selected. An announcement of their names is expected in the next few days. A draft Call for Nominations for other team members has been developed, and the process of selecting the

consulting firm is underway. Meanwhile, the team is assembling documents including past enrolment numbers at Mount Allison and the current plans of other universities.

K. Morse asked whether there had been an open call for the co-leads. I. Sutherland replied that the co-leads were selected by the President, but other members of the team will be selected by an open call. The co-leads will be involved in selecting the other member of the team.

10.10.08 Report from the Academic Matters (Regulations) Committee

Motion (R. Isnor/S. Law): that Senate approve the changes to academic regulations outlined in the Academic Matters (Regulations) Committee Report for Senate, October 8, 2024.

Motion carried, as amended below

Motion (S. Law/J. Dryden): that the motion be revised so that the words “in Health Studies” be struck from the proposed amendment to Calendar Regulation 10.11.5

Amendment carried

S. Law noted that the amendment would mean that the new academic hood for the BAsc would be used for a degree rather than for a program, consistent with existing university regulations for academic hoods. This would make it unnecessary to revisit the Regulation 10.11.5 should the university approve additional BAsc programs.

Referring to the main motion, J. Dryden asked why the committee recommended salmon as the hood colour for the BAsc. B. Annear replied that there is precedent for salmon-coloured hoods for programs in Health Studies. K. Morse asked whether there is precedent for hood colours in BAsc degrees. B. Annear answered that there is no precedent.

W. Wilson asked how the proposed change to the method of submitting Honours theses would affect students graduating in 2024. Would they all be expected to submit digital copies, or could some students submit paper copies? R. Rubin noted that the Library would accommodate both forms of submission, under direction from the Registrar’s Office. B. Annear noted that students could use either process this year, consistent with the rule that students can elect to graduate under the terms of any of the Academic Calendars in effect during their studies at Mount Allison. I. Sutherland asked that faculty members be flexible this year. J. Tomes noted that the amended regulation would only apply to the final copy of theses submitted to the Deans Office. Departmental policies on theses would not be affected.

11.10.08 Report from the Academic Matters (Curriculum and Academic) Committee

Motion (V. St. Pierre/B. Annear): that Senate approve the changes to courses, academic regulations, and academic programs as outlined in the Academic Matters (Curriculum and Academic) Committee Report for Senate, October 8, 2024.

Motion carried (5 abstentions)

L. Michaelis noted that in past years Senators were sometimes provided both detailed descriptions of new courses and shorter descriptions to be published in the Academic Calendar. She noted that some of the proposed descriptions are rather longer and detailed. She asked whether these descriptions are to be published in the Academic Calendar. She also questioned whether this level of detail would make it difficult for a replacement to be found for the usual instructor in the event of a sabbatical or other leave.

B. Annear answered that there is no word limit on entries in the Academic Calendar and that the descriptions presented to Senate would appear in the Academic Calendar, if approved. C. Ionescu agreed that the descriptions of some of the VMCS courses are rather long, but intentionally so. Because the course are new, upper-year courses with specific roles in VCMS programs, faculty in VCMS judged it best to provide detailed course descriptions.

B. Robertson noted that the description of VMCS 3131 contains non-Latin script, which may be difficult to parse.

S. Law said that he found it difficult to judge, based on the proposed wording alone, the scholarly approach in VMCS 3121. On this basis, he planned to abstain from the vote.

C. Ionescu answered that the proposals come from seasoned academics with a track record of upholding scholarly regulations and standards. Moreover, descriptions of the courses more elaborate than the proposed Calendar descriptions exist. J. Dryden added that wording such as “interdisciplinary overview,” which is found in the proposed description of VMCS 3121, is standard in interdisciplinary courses. K. Morse agreed with J. Dryden on this point.

K. Morse also asked whether the INDG courses are sufficiently resourced. He also asked whether we need a style guide for entries into the Academic Calendar.

L. Michaelis reminded Senate that courses in the Academic Calendar belong to the University, rather than to a department or a faculty member. She noted that the Academic Matters Committee has a role to play in ensuring that ownership of courses.

A. Nurse answered that Indigenous Studies is sufficiently resourced at present, and expressed a hope that may be further strengthen by continued Indigenization in other units and departments.

12.10.08 Report from the Committee on Committees

Motion (S. DeWolfe/G. Cruttwell): that Senate acclaim the nominees listed in the Report of the Committee on Committees to Senate, October 8, 2024, to the committees and for the terms indicated therein.

Motion carried

C. Ionescu noted that one of the appointments to the International Programs Committee was *ex-officio*, so that that nomination should be treated as information to Senate. The motion carried with this proviso in mind.

I. Sutherland thanked the committee for its work.

13.10.08 Other Business

There was no other business.

14.10.08 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:07 pm, as moved by Y. Bourgeois.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Brett
Secretary