

**MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY
MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE**

January 7, 2025, 4:00pm
Windsor Grand Room & Microsoft Teams (hybrid format)

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

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

Regrets: C. Duguay, S. Law, M. Maston, A. Wilson

01.01.07 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.

02.01.07 Approval of agenda

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

Motion carried

03.01.07 Consent Agenda (G. Cruttwell/V. St. Pierre)

- a. Approval of the minutes (December 3, 2024)
- b. Discover Mount Allison

Approved without discussion

04.01.07 Business arising from the minutes

I. Sutherland shared the names of the consultants from Academica Group who will be working on the Strategic Plan: Bonnie Crocker, Kascie Shewan, Bruce Thompson, Karen Lee, Katie Herlick, and Alison Pickrell.

05.01.07 Report from the Chair

The Chair gave an oral report. He thanked organizers of the Vigil of Honor and Reflection on the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, December 6 and the University Holiday Social, December 18. He also noted the efforts of those who planned events for students who stayed in residence over the holiday break and those who welcomed students starting at Mount Allison in January. There are at least 41 of these students.

I. Sutherland welcomed R. Inglis back to work, while thanking C. Milner for filling in. Senators showed appreciation with applause. The President also welcomed Matt Jonah, the new Director, Recruitment, Admissions and Awards.

The Chair informed Senate that the draft report from the review of Student Affairs is expected in February, while an early report from the review of student financial aid is due in March.

I. Sutherland congratulated Mount Allison student Heather MacTavish on taking first prize in the presentation competition at the University of New Brunswick (UNB) Data Challenge and Mountie Women's hockey coach Addie Miles-Abbott on being named to the coaching staff for Team Canada at the FISU World University Games in Torino, Italy.

Finally, the Chair advised senators of some upcoming events: the Colloquium Musicum: "New Songs for Soprano and Jazz Trio." Dr. Christina R. Haldane on January 8; Thank You Day on December 10, the Faculty and Guest Recital: "Rhythms of Renewal," performed by Joël Cormier (percussion) and Carl Philippe Gionet (piano) on January 11; the ACAA badminton tournament on January 11, and the Pratt Lecture "After the Scream" by Shary Boyle and Crystal Mowry on January 15. He also reminded senators of the Seeds of Change Bystander Intervention training. Full details of all events are available in What's On at MtA.

06.01.07 Report from University Planning Committee

R. Isnor reported that the committee has met once since the December meeting of Senate, to discuss responses to program reviews by the departments of Biology, Economics, and Modern Languages and Literatures. These meetings covered both actions taken by departments and issues that remain outstanding. The committee will continue to work on reviews in Psychology and Visual and Material Cultures. A program review in Classics is scheduled for this term.

07.01.07 Strategic Planning Update

I. Sutherland introduced the members of the Strategic Planning Facilitation Team to Senate: Dr. Andrea Morash, Dr. Caitlin McLaughlin, Dr. Beth Jewitt, Cassie Rodriguez, Emily Sanford, Bentley Huffington, Nate Lesser, Lakshmi Koduvelil Sayan, Tanya Hage Coburn, Logan Reid ('23), Lisa Yarmoshuk ('88), and Paul Henry ('85). Senators thanked committee members in attendance with applause.

The chair informed Senate that the first meeting of the team was held on January 7. The next steps are to finalize the consultation strategies and engage with Academica Group to learn about the external influences on higher education in Canada. Meanwhile, Academica Group is assembling documents from the university.

I. Sutherland thanked the co-chairs, R. Rubin and C. Brett, for putting the team together and organizing their initial meeting.

G. Cruttwell asked for an update on the timeline for the planning process. I. Sutherland responded that consultations will be carried out in February and March, with a report on the consultations due in April. The committee will work on the draft plan in April and May.

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

Motion (B. Annear/V. St. Pierre): 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, January 7, 2025.

Motion carried

V. St. Pierre thanked Sarah Kardash for checking that the proposals align with the Academic Calendar.

S. Law asked whether the committee considered including ECON 3111 Health Economics in the Health Studies program. J. Dryden answered that the proposal was shared with the Department of Economics and that ECON 3111 was not brought up at that time. In addition, she noted that the pre-requisites for ECON 3111 may pose a barrier to many students in Health Studies. J. Dryden also stated that it is possible to add this course to the program if there is interest. B. Annear noted that, in the interim, a student could ask for permission to include ECON 311 in their program. A. Nurse asked whether adding the course at a later date would require Senate approval. V. St. Pierre responded that such a change would need Senate approval and should be brought, in the first instance, to the Academic Matters (Curriculum and Academic Committee).

09.01.07 Report from the Academic Matters (Regulations) Committee

Motion (B. Annear/R. Isnor): that Senate approve the changes to the transcript legend and to the Academic Calendar as outlined in the Academic Matters (Regulations) Committee Report for Senate, January 7, 2025.

Motion carried

V. Meli noted that the transcript legend states that academic terms are approximately 13 weeks in duration and asked whether this should be changed to 12 weeks to better align with usual practice. B. Annear answered that this possible, but that approximately 13 weeks is not misleading.

10.01.07 Calendar of Events

Motion (B. Annear/V. St. Pierre): that Senate approve the revised 2025-2026 Calendar of Events as circulated.

Motion carried (4 nays, 2 abstentions)

B. Annear noted that the changes to the previously approved calendar are to strike out the date of the University Open House (this will be decided later) and to move the Fall Study Break to the week including Thanksgiving.

L. Michaelis asked whether moving the Fall Break without updating the date by which 20 percent of graded work must be returned to students is workable. She noted that it could be difficult to cover enough material before the break to allow for a substantive assignment or test, while setting work after the break could make grading impossible in a window of five days or less. K. Crosby noted that the timing of the deadline for returning 20 percent of work is on the Friday following reading week in both terms, while N. Johnston remarked that there are six weeks of instruction prior to the proposed Fall Break, except Labour Day. J. Tomes reminded Senate that there is an academic regulation governing the placement of the deadline for returning a portion of graded material. She asked whether the Academic Matters (Regulations) Committee might check the proposed date for compliance with that regulation.

R. Delaney noted that there was a spike in reported cases of students of concern during November 2024. He suggested that an earlier Fall Break might alleviate this issue.

L. Michalis also asked for clarification on whether the university is open on December 24, 2025, and on the January 5, 2026, meeting of Senate. R. Inglis noted that the holiday break is governed by collective agreements with staff unions. K. Morse observed that the proposed calendar has the university open on December 23 but closed on December 24.

V. Meli asked if the issue of make up days for storms had been concerned. B. Annear stated that there is no room for such days in the Fall term, and that he would ask the Academic Matters (Regulations) Committee to look into the issue of storm days in the Winter term.

11.01.07 Report from the Committee on Committees

Motion (A. LePage/S. Dewolfe): That Senate elect the following faculty to the Senate committees listed in the report from the Committee on Committees, January 7, 2025, with a term beginning immediately and ending June 30, 2027.

Motion carried

A. Lepage noted the remaining vacancies listed in the committee's report. V. St. Pierre asked for volunteers for the Academic Matters (Curriculum and Programs Committee). I. Sutherland called for nominations from the floor for all the vacancies. No nominations were received.

12.01.07 Other Business

There was no other business.

13.01.07 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:53 pm, as moved by A. Nurse.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Brett
Secretary