

MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY  
MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

May 8, 2025, 10:30 am  
Windsor Grand Room & Microsoft Teams (hybrid format)

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

Guests: J. Kurek, C. Pomare

Regrets: G. Cruttwell, C. Duguay, L. Michaelis, W. Wilson

01.05.08 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.

02.05.08 Approval of agenda

**Motion (V. St. Pierre/ A. Nurse): that Senate adopt the agenda as presented.**

**Motion carried**

03.05.08 Consent Agenda (M. Levesque/A. Nurse)

- a. Approval of the minutes (March 11, 2025)
- b. Approval of the minutes (April 1, 2005, Senate-only meeting)
- c. Report from the Graduate Studies Committee
- d. Report from the Research Ethics Board [to follow]
- e. Discover Mount Allison

**Approved**

**04.05.08 Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes

**05.05.08 Report from the Chair**

Before addressing his report, the President congratulated the new student senators on their election and thanked all senators for their work throughout the year.

The Chair then highlighted several aspects of his written report, including

- The many successes of students and faculty throughout the year
- Breaking ground for the new multi-sport complex
- The completion of the Student Affairs review, which emphasized four themes
  - Creating Student Affairs Action Plan
  - Developing an integrated and holistic advising model
  - Engaging in proactive mental health and wellness care
  - Enhancing residence life
- Continued awareness of financial sustainability, given the need of generate an additional \$5 million in net revenue over the next five years to eliminate continued deficits. The President noted that the Vice President Finance and Administration is developing a deficit elimination framework
- The upcoming joyous events on campus, including Convocation and Alumni Weekend

V. St. Pierre noted that the term structural deficit seemed jargony and did not capture the recurring nature of the university's deficits. I. Sutherland noted that the university has increased its borrowing over the last few years but is yet to find itself out of cash. He noted that we could run into a cash deficit within two years. Nevertheless, the President noted that our financial difficulties are not as severe as many universities and that we between six and eighteen months to figure out how to address the problem.

A. Nurse said that he appreciated the continued use of EDIA language and asked for an update on Indigenization. I. Sutherland responded that Indigenization will appear in the principles underlying the Strategic Plan. R. Isnor added that the university continues to consider new options for engagement with Indigenous communities. M. Matson added that the university is aiming to build closer relations with Fort Folly First Nation.

**06.05.08 Report from the Graduation Review Committee**

B. Annear reported that the committee met to review two cases of students near the cut-off for degrees with distinction. It decided to recommend that both degrees be granted with distinction. The list of candidates for degrees to be considered by Senate incorporates these recommendations.

07.05.08      Candidates for Degrees

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

**Motion carried**

Senate considered candidates for degrees.

**Motion (B. Robertson/ M. Levesque): that Senate move *out of camera*.**

08.05.08      Report from University Planning Committee

R. Isnor spoke to the written report, with emphasis on aspects of the program reviews in Psychology and Visual and Material Cultures. He noted that there is an ongoing review of Classics and that the committee received mid-review updates regarding the BSc in Aviation, English, Feminist and Gender Studies, and Physics.

The Provost noted that the review in Psychology was generally positive, but raised issues relating to space, renovations affecting the animal care facility, workload challenges, and lab instructors. The review of Visual and Material Cultures noted the success of the program and its faculty members, along with challenges associated with a new and growing program: space issues, administrative support, and support in program development.

S. Law noted that he requested and received review documents not included in the Senate materials related to the review of Visual and Material Cultures. He said that he had a positive view of the self-study's aspiration of developing crucial thinking about visual media. He also noted that some students requested more theory and increased rigour from the program. R. Isnor noted that the committee reflected on all the documents submitted for the review when developing its recommendations.

M. Levesque said that Senators should have access to all departmental review documents, in addition to the summaries currently circulated. R. Isnor noted that all documents are made available on the university gateway after reviews are completed. The documents for Psychology and Visual and Material Cultures are not yet posted. R. Isnor added that he noted M. Levesque's request that all documents be circulated. B. Walters added that he found the summary documents of limited value.

B. Walters also raised the issue of grade inflation. A Nurse cautioned against using the term "rigour" to value certain approaches in the academy more than others. He also said he would welcome further discussion on grading to clarify any points of confusion over what particular grades mean. I Sutherland noted that academic excellence has multiple interpretations and that it was alluded to in much of the feedback received during the strategic planning process.

09.05.08      Report from the Research and Creative Activities Committee

R. Isnor reported that committee met five terms over the Winter term. He highlighted aspects of the written report, including adjudication of internal grants for students and faculty. The Provost also noted that the committee worked on revisions to Policy 5200 on internal research grants, which were presented in the following motion.

**Motion (R. Isnor/V. St. Pierre): that Senate approve the revised Policy 5200: Internal Research Grants as circulated.**

**Motion carried**

10.05.08      Strategic Planning Update

C. Brett updated Senate on the work of Strategic Planning Facilitation Team. He noted that they are working through feedback provided through the in-person feedback sessions and provided an interim report on April 22. That same day, the team hosted a Community Café to gather further feedback on emerging themes. A full What We Heard report will be published in the coming weeks. He thanked the entire community for their ideas and support.

I. Sutherland invited Senators to thank the entire team, including co-Chairs R. Rubin and C. Brett, for their work. Senators responded with applause.

11.05.08      Report from the Academic Matters (Regulations) Committee

**Motion (R. Isnor/B. Annear): that Senate approve the changes to Academic Calendar regulations and the provisional five-year Academic Calendar as outlined in the Report of the Academic Matters (Regulations) Committee, May 2025.**

**Motion carried (1 nay)**

V. St. Pierre asked for a strikeout version of the document.

K. Morse asked whether the proposed change to regulations would allow academic advisors to decide on transfer credits. B. Annear answered that academic advisors would not make these decisions but would pass material to academic departments. The Registrar also noted the addition of a sentence encouraging the release of syllabi.

M. Levesque proposed that syllabi be requested for internal use only. He did not support the release of syllabi beyond the university. B. Annear noted that other institutions may need information in our syllabi to make their transfer credit decisions. In response to a question by R. Inglis, the Registrar noted that the university currently provides syllabi to other institutions for this purpose. M. Levesque said that in his view syllabi should be released only with permission of the faculty member, with faculty members knowing the nature of the request in order to

protect their intellectual property. J. Tomes noted that it may be difficult to contact instructors of past courses who no longer work at the university. B. Walters noted that the Faculty of Social Sciences archives syllabi, presumably in anticipation of requests. H. Lane noted that she often requests syllabi from other institutions when assessing credit transfer into Mount Allison. L.D. Hamilton noted that students have copies of their syllabi, which they may be circulating.

12.05.08      Report from the Committee on Committees

**Motion (A. LePage/S. Dewolfe): Motion (A. LePage/S. Dewolfe): That Senate elect the following faculty to the Research Ethics Board, with a 3-year term beginning July 1, 2025.**

**Motion carried**

Doruk Uysal-Irak (Psychology)  
Mitch LaPointe (Psychology)  
Elizabeth Stregger (Librarian)

**Motion (A. LePage/S. Dewolfe): That Senate elect the following students to the following Senate Committees for terms beginning immediately and ending April 30, 2026:**

**Motion carried**

**The Academic Appeals Committee**

Ava Horwood  
Indigenous Senator (TBA)

**The Academic Information Technology Committee**

Tallulah MacNeil  
Isabella Andrea

**The Academic Integrity Committee**

Emma Doukas  
Lily Schwartz  
Caleb Salter-Romain

**The Academic Matters (Curriculum and Academic) Committee**

Indigenous Senator (TBA)

**The Academic Matters (Regulations) Committee**

Isabella Andrea

**The Admissions and Readmissions Committee**

Tallulah MacNeil

**The Committee on Emeriti Appointments**

Emma Doukas

**The Experiential Learning Committee**

Tallulah MacNeil

**The Graduation Review Committee**

Lily Schwartz

**The Research and Creative Activities Committee**

Lily Schwartz

Isabella Andrea

**The Scholarships and Bursaries Committee**

Caleb Salter-Romain

**The Senate Agenda Committee**

Emma Doukas

**The Teaching and Learning Committee**

Ava Horwood

Indigenous Senator (TBA)

**The University Planning Committee**

Kassandra Vail

Ava Horwood

**The Honorary Degrees Committee**

Caleb Salter-Romain

The committee also noted vacancies the following committees:

**The Academic Matters (Regulations) Committee**

VACANCIES: 1 faculty member from the Faculty of Arts

**The Research and Creative Activity Committee (from any Faculty)**

VACANCIES: 1 faculty member from Social Sciences

**The Research Ethics Board**

VACANCIES: 1 faculty member or librarian

**The Honorary Degrees Committee**

VACANCIES: 1 faculty member or librarian

13.05.08      Call for Nominations to the Committee on Committees

At the request of C. Brett, the Chair called for nominations to the Committee on Committees. None were received.

J. Tomes noted that members of the Committee on Committees cannot be nominated to other Senate committees. A. LePage, current co-Chair noted that the committee does most of its work via email.

14.05.08      Other Business

I. Sutherland noted the passing of Dr. William Lundell, Associate Professor of History. He conveyed condolences to Dr. Lundell's family and friends on behalf of the university. V. St. Pierre said that she had heard expressions of appreciation from students of Dr. Lundell's teaching. She also offered to forward messages to the family upon request.

H. Lane noted the expressions of condolences and appreciation for Dr. Lundell's work on the History Department's Facebook page.

13.05.08      Adjournment

On a motion by A. Nurse, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Brett  
Secretary