

MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY
MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

December 2, 2025, 4:00 pm
Tweedie Hall & Microsoft Teams (hybrid format)

Present: B. Annear, F. Antonelli, L. Beck, A. Beverley, F. Black, Y. Bourgeois, C. Brett (Secretary), G. Brooks, P. Brown, E. Doukas, C. Forstall, S. Fanning, D. Fleming, A. Francis, D. Hamilton, M. Hamilton, A. Horwood, R. Inglis, R. Isnor (Vice-Chair), B. Jewett, K. Johnston, N. Johnston, L. Kelliher, H. Lane, C. Langlais, M. LaPointe, C. MacDougall, T. MacNeil, C. McLaughlin, V. Meli, K. Morse, R. Moser, W. Paluch, C. Pringle-Carver, T. Reiffenstein, N. Robinson, J. Ropson, R. Rubin, S. Ruckenstein, R. Schellenberg, L. Schwartz, V. St. Pierre, I. Sutherland (Chair), D. Thomas, J. Tomes, K. Vail

Guests: C. Pomare, G. Sandala

Regrets: I. Andrea, M. Grant, C. Salter

01.12.05 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.

02.12.05 Approval of agenda

Motion (L. Beck/C. McLaughlin): that Senate adopt the agenda as presented.

Motion carried

03.12.05 Consent Agenda (C. McLaughlin/ S. Ruckenstein)

- a. Approval of the minutes of a regular meeting (November 4, 2025)
- b. Approval of the minutes of special meetings (September 16, September 29, and October 30, 2025)
- c. Discover Mount Allison
- d. Report from the Research and Creative Activities Committee
- e. Equity Report

Approved

04.12.05 Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

05.12.05 Report from the Chair

I. Sutherland thanked Senate, faculty, staff, and students for contributing to a successful Fall term. He invited Senators to the December 3 flag raising on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities and to the December 5 event on the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

The President informed Senate that the Strategic Plan was approved by the Board of Regents on November 14. The Board also passed a motion of thanks to the Strategic Planning Facilitation Teams and its co-Chairs, R. Rubin and C. Brett. An internal launch of the plan is scheduled for December 1. I. Sutherland reminded Senators of the call for expressions of interest in the Strategic Plan Implementation Group.

I. Sutherland also highlighted the following points from his written report:

- The application rate to the university is up by 4% on a year-to-year basis.
- For the 2026-27 budget, each Vice-President has been given a 2.5% increase over the 2025-26 year in their respective funding envelopes.
- The Provost has prepared a brief on the implications of the recent federal budget on research funding.
- The new Student Support Certificate program has launched.
- University Advancement is working on a digital records project and will soon deploy a CRM system.
- The university's emissions from vehicles have declined by more than 75% due to the deployment of electric club car vehicles.

In response to a question by A. Beverley, I. Sutherland stated that the expected time commitment for the Strategic Plan Implementation Group is 4-6 hours per month for a term of two years. There may also be some one-year terms to allow for rotation of team membership.

06.12.05 Report from University Planning Committee

R. Isnor highlighted aspects of the written report. He informed Senate that the committee recommended three tenure-track hires (in Drama and Screen Studies, Modern Languages and Literatures, and Politics and International Relations) and several term positions. The committee had received sixteen requests for tenure-track hires and one request for a teaching instructor. A draft sabbatical replacement plan, which includes replacing 47 of a projected 60 courses to be taught by sabbaticants, has been circulated to department heads. The Provost noted that the plan

makes no use of endowed post-doctoral fellowships as sabbatical replacements. R. Isnor thanked C. Milner for modelling budgetary impacts of the position requests.

The committee is considering how best to gather information about position requests. The Provost thanked department heads for their input to the committee, but said he found the time allotted to discussion with heads quite short.

R. Isnor updated Senate on department and program reviews. The committee expects a report on Classics early in 2026, while site visits have been completed in Drama and Screen Studies and Philosophy. The site visit in Commerce will be held in Winter 2026.

The Provost noted that upcoming business for the committee will include reviewing Policy 5901 on academic program development and providing advice on Strategic Plan implementation.

0.7.12.05 Enrollment Update

R. Isnor presented enrollment information to Senate. Highlights included a 1.2% increase in total enrollment, which surpassed enrollment growth in most Atlantic Canadian universities. There was, however, a decline in international student enrollment. This decline was the lowest in Atlantic Canada.

New student growth in 2025-26 was primarily from transfer students.

The presentation outlined the remarkable growth in Aviation enrollments (B. Sc., B. Comm., and most recently B. A.). R. Isnor noted that the Aviation programs account for virtually all increases in enrollment. He also noted that Aviation students take fewer courses at Mount Allison beyond their first year and, consequently, pay reduced Mount Allison tuition over the duration of their programs. Despite increased student numbers, the university has fewer total enrollments in classes than in recent years.

I. Sutherland highlighted the overall strong enrollment numbers and noted that the proportion of students from outside New Brunswick is higher at Mount Allison is higher than at any other institution in the province. While this adds to the overall diversity of students, it does mean that changes in policies in other provinces can causes changes in our enrollments. He also noted that increased reliance on a small number of programs can lead to declines in student numbers should those programs wane in popularity.

C. McLaughlin said she appreciated the detailed information about enrollments in B. Comm. Aviation versus other B. Comm programs. She asked that this level of information be made more widely available to aid in departmental planning over course offerings.

M. Hamilton noted that there are few resources dedicated solely to Aviation programs and that there is no single home department for aviation programs. J. Tomes responded that resources include two instructorships (one in GENS and one in MATH/CS/PHYS), two advisors (one for the B.Sc. and one for the B. Comm), a pilot-in-residence, and a dedicated room. R. Isnor noted incremental increases in resources in the past year, including the room. He noted additional

advising resources for B. A. and B. Comm Aviation students are being considered and that a coordinator/director position could be considered. The Provost also noted administrative resources are needed to process transfer credits and overseeing tuition apportionment with Moncton Flight College.

T. Reiffenstein noted that Aviation programs have no direct representation on Senate. I. Sutherland noted that MASU has raised the issue of Aviation student representation with him. R. Isnor responded that direct student representation by program is not consistent with the current model of representation by Faculty. W. Paluch noted that C. Salter, a current student Social Sciences Senator, is a B. Comm. Aviation student. C. Brett noted that Senate representation is outlined in the University Bylaw, which is under the purview of the Board of Regents. The provisions for Senate representation were last amended by the Board of Regents in 2019, acting upon a request by Senate.

C. Forstall asked if the recent decline in enrollment from New Brunswick is like that experienced by other universities in the province. I. Sutherland answered that the decline is unique to Mount Allison, but that this year's applications from New Brunswick are showing signs of rebound. R. Isnor added that the university tracks applications at the high-school level to inform recruitment activities.

08.12.05 Report from the Academic Matters (Programs and Curriculum) Committee

Motion (V. St. Pierre/B. Annear): that Senate approve the changes to courses and academic programs contained in the Report from the Academic Matters (Programs and Curriculum) Committee, December 2, 2025.

Motion subsequently divided by a motion below

V. St. Pierre noted all the changes in the report related to the Biochemistry Program. B. Annear corrected a typographical error, so that the motion was understood to read that the Honours in Biochemistry includes three credits from BIOC 3001, 3131.

Motion (K. Vail/ T. MacNeil): that the motion be divided so that the changes in Program Requirements be considered separately from the changes in Course Descriptions.

**Motion to divide carried
(7 nays, 4 abstentions)**

K. Vail expressed concern over a reduction in the number of lab courses in the revised program and questioned whether students in Biochemistry had been adequately consulted on the changes.

V. Meli responded that students were consulted and that the changes took a fair amount of time to develop. She noted that intensive lab courses are difficult to run, especially with large cohorts of students. V. Meli added that the proposed lab course requirements are consistent with current disciplinary norms.

The Chair then asked that the divided motions be brought to Senate.

Motion (V. St. Pierre/B. Annear): that Senate approve the changes to courses contained in the Report from the Academic Matters (Programs and Curriculum) Committee, December 2, 2025.

Motion carried

There was no debate on the motion to changes in courses.

Motion (V. St. Pierre/B. Annear): that Senate approve the changes to academic programs contained in the Report from the Academic Matters (Programs and Curriculum) Committee, December 2, 2025.

**Motion carried
(6 nays, 4 abstentions)**

T. MacNeil, a current Biochemistry student, argued that BIOC 3001 and 3031 are very different courses, and both would be beneficial for honours students, and perhaps even for majors. She also noted that changes in the CHEM requirements might lead to the degree having more CHEM and BIOC courses. T. MacNeil also questioned the stated rationale for changing the PHYS 1551 requirement, noting that students usually take that course in their first year and not in their fourth year, as stated in the rationale.

V. Meli answered that removing the PHYS 1551 requirement allowed an increase in CHEM requirements and that this year's graduating class in Biochemistry has an unusually large proportion of students who took PHYS 1551 in their first year. The previous norm was for many students to take that course in their fourth year, which lead to timetabling difficulties.

L. Schwartz stated that BIOC 3001 and 3031 allow students to learn essential lab skills essential for employment, entry into graduate programs, preparation for Honours Theses, and becoming better teaching assistants.

After receiving clarification from V. Meli, D. Hamilton noted that it remains possible for students to take both BIOC 3001 and 3031. Indeed, changes to the course description include restricting access to those courses to Biochemistry students only, whereas the previous description allowed access to Biology students as well. V. Meli added that honours students in Biochemistry will be encouraged to take both BIOC 3001 and 3031 and the new rules will enhance their access to these courses. J. Tomes agreed that increased access to these lab courses for Biochemistry students was part of the motivation for the changes proposed in the committee's report.

K. Vail argued that the proposed changes would alter the experience of the Biochemistry degree and that there should be further consultation on the changes. This led to the following motion.

Motion (K. Vail/ W. Paluch): that the motion on the floor (regarding changes to the program requirements in Biochemistry) be tabled, pending consultation with current and past students in Biochemistry.

**Motion to table defeated
(7 yeas, 7 abstentions)**

With both parts of the divided motion carried, all changes proposed in the committee's report were approved by Senate.

I. Sutherland thanked students for their leadership and engagement in the discussion.

09.12.05 Report from the Academic Matters (Regulations) Committee

Motion (B. Annear/V. St. Pierre): that Senate approve the changes to Academic Calendar contained in the Report from the Academic Matters (Regulations) Committee, December 2, 2025.

Motion carried

B. Annear noted that the changes consisted of a clarification of the regulation surrounding tests and course work during the last week of classes and the removal of duplicate section of the Academic Calendar.

F. Black expressed appreciation for the new wording of the regulation.

10.12.05 Calendar of Events 2026-27 and Provisional Calendar of Events 2027-28

Motion (B. Annear/R. Isnor): that Senate accept the 2026-27 calendar as circulated as final and not provisional and that Senate accept the 2027-28 provisional calendar as circulated.

**Motion carried
(6 yeas, 1 abstention)**

W. Paluch informed Senate that MASU is conducting a survey of student opinions on the October Fall Break. Of 315 responses received to date, 58% expressed a preference for a November Fall Break, 36% expressed a preference for an October Fall Break, and 6% expressed no preference. V. St. Pierre noted that a straw vote of Senate conducted three years ago resulted in an approximate even split of preference between these two options, while Senate passed the current placement of the break two years ago. W. Paluch responded that these results were presented for information only, and that there is currently no proposal to change the timing of the Fall Break.

V. St. Pierre noted that the 2026-7 calendar currently lists January 6 before January 5. B. Annear undertook to put these dates in chronological order before publishing.

C. McLaughlin asked if all make-up days near the end of Fall Term could be labelled according to the days they replace. R. Isnor said that he did not see the need for this. B. Annear stated that

no other institutions label make-up days. M. Hamilton said that he found that the make-up days condense the last week of classes, making it difficult to examine course material.

K. Vail expressed concern over the short period of time between the last day of classes and the first day of the examination period during Fall 2027. E. Doukas noted that other primarily undergraduate institutions in the region have a three-day window between classes and exams.

11.12.05 Report from the Committee and Committees

C. Forstall reminded senators of committee vacancies and encouraged people to come forward with nominations.

12.12.05 Other Business

I. Sutherland wished everyone best wishes for the holiday season.

16.12.05 Adjournment

On a motion by L. Beck, the meeting adjourned at 5:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Brett
Secretary