

MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY
JOINT MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE AND FACULTY COUNCIL
(Minutes of the Senate-only portion of the meeting)

March 31, 2026, 4:00 pm
Windsor Grand Room & Microsoft Teams (hybrid format)

Senators Present: B. Annear, F. Antonelli, L. Beck, A. Beverley, F. Black, C. Brett (Secretary), G. Brooks, P. Brown, S. Fanning, D. Fleming, A. Francis, C. Forstall, M. Grant, D. Hamilton, M. Hamilton, M. Hashemi, A. Horwood, R. Inglis, R. Isnor (Vice-Chair), B. Jewett, K. Johnston, N. Johnston, L. Keliher, H. Lane, M. LaPointe, C. MacDougall, D. Mawhinney, V. Meli, K. Morse, C. Pringle-Carver, T. Reiffenstein, N. Robinson, R. Rubin, S. Ruckenstein, R. Schellenberg, V. St. Pierre, I. Sutherland (Chair), D. Thomas, J. Tomes, K. Vail, M. Vicaire

Faculty Council Members Present: K. Bell, C. Cash, S. DeWolfe, L.D. Hamilton, C. LeBlanc, E. Millar, A. Morash, A. Nurse, C. Pomare, T. Roberts, G. Sandala, A. Smyth

Guests: R. Gamm

Regrets: I. Andrea, T. MacNeil, W. Paluch

01.03.31 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.

02.03.31 Approval of agenda

Motion (V. St. Pierre/ C. Forstall): that the meeting adopt the agenda as presented.

Motion carried

03.03.31 Constituting as a Meeting of Senate

I. Sutherland declared the meeting to be re-constituted as a meeting of Senate.

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

Motion (V. St. Pierre/B. Annear): that Senate approve the changes to courses, and academic programs as outlined in the Academic Matters (Curriculum and Programs) Committee Report for Senate, March 31, 2026.

**Motion carried
(6 abstentions)**

V. St. Pierre introduced the motion, which creates the B. Ed. program and its constituent courses. She thanked R. Gamm for putting the proposal together, the committee for its consideration of the proposal over several meetings, and G. Brooks for editorial comments on a previous version of the report.

R. Isnor stated that the B. Ed. program meets the need to train more teachers in the province and a desire by students to pursue an education program here rather than going elsewhere after completing a first degree at Mount Allison. He noted that the program could attract new post-bac students and draw in undergraduates who wish to stay on to complete a B. Ed. The Provost also noted that the Anglophone East School District and leaders of local Indigenous communities have expressed support from the program. R. Isnor informed Senate that the program is designed to develop teachers with the professional, language and cultural skills to teach in the Province of New Brunswick and in First Nations schools.

The Provost noted that start-up funding is needed, with the hope that Senate approval of the program would help to secure government funding. Given changes announced in the recent provincial budget, the program would not need approval by the MPHEC. It would, however, need to meet certification requirements set out by the provincial Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

R. Isnor thanked V. St. Pierre and R. Gamm for leading the process of developing the program.

V. St. Pierre informed Senate that two advisory groups, one on-campus and one off-campus, will continue to advise the program as it unfolds. She also expects consultation with the Indigenous education advisory groups across New Brunswick.

R. Gamm gave an overview of the program structure. He noted that it is a cohort-based, pre-professional, post-baccalaureate program leading to a Teacher's Certificate 5. Entrants are expected to have an undergraduate degree that includes the teachable subject requirements for certification. The program includes specific experiential learning components.

Discussion of the motion touched on the following topics.

Financial and resource implications

P. Brown asked how the university would proceed in the event of partial or no government funding. R. Isnor answered that there is no intention to cut existing programs to fund this one.

F. Black expressed concern about the finances and how approximately thirty new courses would be staffed. She also asked for clarification on the request to the Government of New Brunswick for start-up funding. I. Sutherland responded that the university asked for \$1 million per year for five years, commensurate with the expected annual expected additional costs of the program. After the five years, it is expected that tuition revenues from the program will cover its costs. V. St. Pierre added that detailed staffing plans will be developed once government funding levels are established. R. Inglis noted that the university ran projections including faculty and non-faculty costs when arriving at its estimate of \$1 million per year. F. Black responded that she still found the financial and faculty workload information unclear and was uncomfortable voting for the motion given this uncertainty. R. Isnor added that the program will not go ahead if it is not expected to generate positive net revenue. He said that approving the motion on the floor would make the university ready to start the program if funding is secured. R. Gamm added that the program is written in such a way that it can be rolled back in three to five years if it proves to be unsustainable.

In response to a question by N. Johnston, R. Gamm said the expected cohort size is 75-80 students. B. Annear noted that at current tuition levels, this would generate more than \$800 thousand per year, and that differential tuition fees are possible. R. Gamm added that the cohort-based structure allows for more accurate projections about cost and how to adjust pricing.

A. Beverley asked what administrative support personnel would be needed. R. Gamm answered that two administrators, one general and one specializing in placements, and one dedicated director would be needed.

Program structure and degree requirements

P. Brown asked if the C- rule for prerequisites was appropriate. R. Gamm answered that this is consistent with the general rule at Mount Allison.

G. Brook congratulated the program developers. He noted that the program is focused and coherent with approximately thirty courses, where other programs in the region have as many as one hundred courses.

T. Reiffenstein asked for more information about the cohort structure. R. Gamm answered that everyone in a cohort starts and finishes at the same time. He said that this fosters learning in a team in environment and provides a bridge between university and a professional program.

A. Beverley asked about the course workload, noting that the program is exempt from the usual overloading rules and that students will be required to take four Spring Session courses concurrently. R. Gamm answered that the course requirements are sequenced to allow completion of enough work to meet certification requirements. The time intensity is reflective of the working conditions of teachers. He also noted that the cohort model allows better coordination and support for work.

A. Beverley also asked about the how the program provides training for teachers to work in French. R. Gamm replied that there are no new French language classes in the program. The Oral

Proficiency Interview, which is the provincial standard for French Immersion teachers would be a selective admission criterion for students who wish to teach in that setting.

Relationship with other courses and programs at Mount Allison

In response to a question from A. Beverley, V. St. Pierre stated that the B. Ed. program would be part of the Faculty of Arts, with the possibility of changing that in the future.

F. Black noted that there is little mention of community engaged learning or experiential learning, except reference to land-based practica, nor any use of existing CENL courses. She characterized this as a missed opportunity to add a purely Mount Allison element to the program and to root the program in New Brunswick communities. F. Black also stated that there was no effective communication between the program developers and the CENL program. R. Gamm answered that there was consultation in September 2025, but that many of the ideas from that consultation could not be included due to the need to ensure ample course space for accreditation requirements. He also noted that alternative, community-based practica could be developed.

S. DeWolf noted that she had met with officials in the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development who expressed interest in including community engaged learning in teacher training.

K. Morse congratulated the developers on the program. He noted that some of the proposed new courses had names similar to courses in the B. Mus. Ed. program and wondered if this could cause confusion for students. V. St. Pierre answered that the degrees are very and the differences among courses can be inferred from context.

On the implications of approving the motion

K. Morse expressed concern that the motion comes before approval by the provincial Department of Education and Early Childhood Education and asked what would happen if they were to have concerns or to ask for revisions. R. Gamm answered that program designers have consulted with the Anglophone East School District along the way and that the program aligns with provincial expectations. He fully expects approval. V. St. Pierre added that amendments to the program could be considered by Senate, if necessary.

K. Morse also noted that the motion includes adding wording to the Academic Calendar on teacher certification requirements. He advised against adding this wording, because these requirements are the purview of the provincial government, not of Mount Allison. He suggested that Academic Calendar refer readers to the provincial information.

M. Hamilton asked if there would be need to delete the proposed changes to the Academic Calendar if the program is not approved by the province. B. Annear responded that the program would not be added until approval is granted. C. Forstall and K. Johnston noted that this is not stated in the motion. I. Sutherland noted that the wording of the motion was similar to the one approved in 2025 around the creation of the B. Mus. Ed., which was not fully approved at the time. K. Morse noted that the B. Mus. Ed. did have conditional approval at the time, whereas the

proposed B. Ed. does not. S. DeWolfe said that she did not think the exact sequence of approvals was of consequence.

05.03.31 Report from the Academic Matters (Regulations) Committee

Motion (R. Isnor/B. Annear): that Senate approve the changes to courses, and academic programs as outlined in the Academic Matters (Regulations) Committee Report for Senate, March 31, 2026.

Motion carried

R. Isnor noted that the changes to the Academic Calendar contain the new regulations pertaining to the B. Ed. program.

06.03.31 Other Business of the Meeting of Senate

There was no other business of the meeting of Senate.

07.03.31 Adjournment of the Meeting of Senate

The meeting of Senate adjourned at 5:09 p.m. on a motion by V. St. Pierre.

There followed a joint meeting of Senate and Faculty Council, with separate minutes to be approved at the joint meeting in 2027.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Brett
Secretary