MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY
MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

February 3, 2026, 4:00 pm
Tweedie Hall & Microsoft Teams (hybrid format)

Present: I. Andrea, B. Annear, F. Antonelli, L. Beck, A. Beverley, F. Black, Y. Bourgeois, C. Brett (Secretary), G. Brooks, P. Brown, E. Doukas, 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, L. Keliher, H. Lane, C. Langlais, M. LaPointe, C. MacDougall, T. MacNeil, D. Mawhinney, V. Meli, K. Morse, R. Moser, W. Paluch, C. Pringle-Carver, T. Reiffenstein, N. Robinson, J. Ropson, R. Rubin, S. Ruckenstein, C. Salter, R. Schellenberg, L. Schwartz, V. St. Pierre, I. Sutherland (Chair), D. Thomas, J. Tomes, K. Vail, M. Vicaire

Guests: J. Mullen, C. Pomare

01.02.03 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.

02.02.03 Approval of agenda

**Motion (L. Beck/R. Schellenberg): that Senate adopt the agenda as presented.**

**Motion carried**

03.02.03 Consent Agenda (V. St. Pierre/R. Isnor)

a. Approval of minutes (January 6, 2026)
b. Discover Mount Allison

**Approved**

04.02.03 Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

05.02.03 Report from the Chair

I. Sutherland highlighted aspects of his written report. He offered congratulations to faculty and alumni who received ECMA and Juno Award nominations, to the Owens Art Gallery on receiving a significant grant from the Canada Council, to the Student Affairs Office for developing the Black Student Mentorship Program, to University Advancement on achieving, to date, 96% of its revenue target, to Computing Services on upgrades to Wi-Fi in the residences, and to the proponents of the B. Mus. Ed. Program on conditional approval by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission.

The Chair invited Senators to the Installation of the New Chancellor, George Cooper, K.C., to be held on March 24. He noted the ceremony will include a welcome from Senate and that the guest speaker will be the Honourable Dominic Leblanc, Member of Parliament for Beauséjour.

I. Sutherland informed Senate that C. Pringle-Carver has been appointed as Chief Strategy Officer, who will lead the Strategic Planning Implementation Group. The composition of the group will be announced later in February. The President also congratulated staff in Student Affairs for developing new programs for first-year students.

The President informed Senate that the projected budget deficit remains at approximately one million dollars. He also noted that the university is holding talks with the Government of New Brunswick on startup funding of a B. Ed. program.

The Chair also noted that the university is seeking nominees for two Canada Impact+ Chairs, one Environment and Climate Resilience and one in Health, Including Biotechnology.

I. Sutherland asked Senators to look out for an invitation to a workshop on AI in Higher Education, scheduled for February 13.

F. Black noted the new academic mentoring initiative in Athletics and recognized the ongoing work of Dr. Janine Rogers in that area. She suggested coordination between these programs.

A. Beverley asked how the Canada Impact+ Chair allocation was decided. R. Isnor answered that the federal government set up priority areas in the program design. He consulted with the Research and Creative Activities Committee to identify areas in which Mount Allison would have maximum probability of a successful application. He noted that there are only one-hundred chairs to be allocated nation-wide. Thus, the chances of a successful application are low.

06.02.03 Report from University Planning Committee

R. Isnor informed Senate that the committee met twice between the January and February meetings of Senate. The committee is working on revisions to Policy 5901 on Academic Program Development and on a template to guide programs on staffing requests.

Turing to academic reviews, the Provost noted that reports are pending following site visits for Classics, Drama and Screen Studies, Philosophy, and Commerce.

R. Isnor also noted that the committee has vacancy. M. Hamilton noted that any replacement would be for a full term.

07.02.03 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, February 2026.**

**Motion carried**

Before the vote on the motion, V. St. Pierre corrected typographical errors in the report.

08.02.03 Report from the Honorary Degrees Committee

**Motion (L. Beck/ V. St. Pierre): that Senate move in camera for the purpose of considering candidates for honorary degrees.**

**Motion carried**

Senate considered candidates for honorary degrees.

**Motion (L. Beck/ S. Ruckenstein): that Senate move out of camera.**

**Motion carried**

09.02.03 Report from the Committee on Committees

C. Forstall presented the report, which noted existing vacancies. V. St. Pierre noted that the reported vacancy on the Academic Matters (Programs and Curriculum) Committee has been filled.

K. Morse suggested that the committee could be more aggressive in seeking volunteers, as longstanding vacancies may affect how committees operate. C. Forstall responded that the committee can be more active in seeking volunteers if that is the wish of Senate. M. Hamilton noted that faculty are busy and must balance collegial governance with other aspects of their duties. I. Sutherland wondered if the number and structure of committees could be reviewed.

T. Reiffenstein self-nominated to the Committee on Emeriti Appointments and was acclaimed by Senate.

10.02.03 Other Business

K. Johnston said that she would like Senate to discuss the processes for granting honorary degrees, noting that issued raised in May 2023 on rescinding degrees, voting rules for consideration of candidates, and Indigenous representation in decisions have yet to be fully addressed. I. Sutherland suggested that the Senate Agenda Committee consider adding an item on honorary degrees to the March 2026 meeting of Senate.

I. Sutherland congratulated K. Vail on becoming President-Elect of MASU.

11.02.03 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:57 pm, on a motion by V. St. Pierre.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Brett
Secretary