

MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY
MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

January 6, 2026, 4:00 pm
Windsor Grand Room & Microsoft Teams (hybrid format)

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

Guests: C. Pomare, G. Sandala

Regrets: A. Horwood, L. Keliher, L. Schwartz, M. Grant

01.01.06 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.

02.01.06 Approval of agenda

Motion (V. Meli/K. Johnston): that Senate adopt the agenda as presented.

Motion carried

03.01.06 Consent Agenda (V. St. Pierre/D. Hamiton)
a. Approval of minutes (December 2, 2025)
b. Discover Mount Allison

Approved

04.01.06 Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

05.01.06 Report from the Chair

I. Sutherland gave an oral report. He welcomed everyone back after the holidays.

The President informed Senate of water damage to the Bennet Building, caused on January 6 by a faulty sprinkler. There was no damage to IT systems or files, but operations in the building will be disrupted for some time for cleanup. R. Inglis added that walk-in services and classroom use in the building will be suspended. The community will be kept informed via email.

The Chair welcomed the new Chancellor, George Cooper, who assumed the role on January 1.

I. Sutherland invited Senators to the public launch of the Strategic Plan, January 19. He noted that nominations remain open for the implementation group. He also informed Senators that the Honorary Degrees Committee expects to meet prior to the February meeting of Senate to review background checks on potential nominees. The working group looking into a policy on rescinding honorary degrees has met once and continues its work.

The Chair informed Senate that domestic applications have increased by ten percent over last year, with growth from New Brunswick, Ontario, and Alberta but a decline in applications from Nova Scotia. International applications are on pace with last year. The university's allotment of Attestation Letters for international students is approximately half of last year's number but remains higher than the number used last year.

The President also highlighted the following upcoming events:

- The Pratt Lecture, Tuesday Jan 13 (Motyer Fancy 7pm) featuring Jackson 2bears' current art and research practice, with particular attention to new projects exploring land-based AI ecologies and Indigenous-led approaches to technology grounded in language, land, and traditional teachings.
- A faculty recital Friday, Jan 16 with Christina Haldane and Adam Cicchillitti featuring commissioned works by Atlantic Canadian composers.
- A Guest recital Friday January 23rd Corey Hamm performing Rzewski's "The People United will Never be Defeated."
- Guest speakers Dr. Allison Furey and Dr. Andrew Furey, who will present the 2026 McCain-MacLean talk on health and wellness on Feb 9 and participate in sessions on February 10 on health care and health professionals and on politics and public service.

Y. Bourgeois informed Senators of the following event:

- Derek Brower, U.S. News Editor for the Financial Times will present a talk in the Ron Joyce Presents Speakers Series entitled *From Nato to Trade: Will the Global Order Survive?* on February 5.

M. Hamilton asked whether the year-on-year increase in applications from New Brunswick is a correction for last year's relatively low application numbers from New Brunswick. I. Sutherland responded that this year's applications from New Brunswick is more than ten percent higher than the average of the previous four years. R. Inglis added that application numbers are similar to 2024, which was a particularly strong year.

06.01.06 Report from University Planning Committee

R. Isnor informed Senate that the committee had not met since the December meeting of Senate.

07.01.06 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, January 2026.

Motion carried

Before the vote on the motion, V. St. Pierre clarified some issues with the formatting of the report,

T. Reiffenstein expressed excitement over the new minor and certificate program in Anti-Colonial Studies. He asked if the course offerings in this program could also include some from Social Sciences. V. St. Pierre answered that the committee is open to proposals once the program is up and running.

M. Hamiton asked if the four additional courses in Commerce require additional resources. V. St. Pierre and Y. Bourgeois answered that the committee was satisfied that the courses could be offered with existing resources... The Department of Commerce will implement the necessary course rotations.

08.01.06 Election to the Senate Agenda Committee

C. Brett asked the Chair to call for nominations of Senator who is a faculty member or librarian to the Senate Agenda Committee to replace outgoing member B. Walters.

L. Beck volunteered, and was acclaimed to the position, with a term ending June 30, 2028.

09.01.06 Other Business

There was no other business.

16.01.06 Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Brett
Secretary