

MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY
MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

December 5, 2023, 4:00pm
Windsor Grand Room & Microsoft Teams (hybrid format)

Present: N. Anthonisen, C. Brett (Secretary), P. Brown, R. Bruening, B. Clayton, J. Devine, S. Dewolfe, B. Evans, S. Fanning, D. Fleming, C. Forstall, A. Francis, L. Garnett, D. Hamilton, M. Hamilton, O. Hart, M. Hashemi, K. Hele, R. Inglis, C. Ionescu, K. Johnston, L. Landon, Y. Ma, C. MacDougall, R. MacKinnon (Chair), R. Majithia, C. Major, I. McCardle, V. Meli, L. Michaelis, R. Minocha-McKenney, G. Ouellette, C. Pringle-Carver, T. Reiffenstein, R. Rubin, S. Runge, S. Scott, C. Sinclair, V. St. Pierre (Vice-Chair), E. Steuter, J. Tomes, N. Vogan, B. Walters, A. Warr, W. Wilson

Guests: E. Archibald, M. Cameron, L. Decker Hawthorne

Regrets: A. Fancy, L. Keliher

01.12.05 Territorial Acknowledgement

R. MacKinnon 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
relationship and
our privilege to live on this territory was agreed upon in the Peace and Friendship

08.12.05 Report from the Committee on Committees

Motion (S. Runge / C. Ionescu): The Committee on Committees moves that Senate acclaim the following nominees to the committees indicated for a term commencing January 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2026, or until a sabbatical or other leave.

Motion carried

The Academic Integrity Committee

1 faculty member or librarian

Karen Crosby

1 alternate faculty member or librarian

Catherine Lovekin

The International Programs Committee

1 faculty member or librarian

Andrew Nurse

The Research Ethics Board

1 faculty member or librarian, preferably with broad expertise in the methods or areas of research that are covered by the REB, or who is knowledgeable in ethics

Morgan Poteet

The Scholarships and Bursaries Committee

1 faculty member or librarian

Patricia Kelly-Spurles

The Teaching and Learning Committee

1 faculty member from the Faculty of Arts

Anne Koval

Motion (S. Runge/ C. Ionescu): The Committee on Committees moves that Senate elect ONE of the following nominees to the Academic Matters (Curriculum and Academic) Committee for a term commencing January 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2026, or until a sabbatical or other leave:

Motion carried

Roopen Majithia

Alan Dodson

Subsequently, Senate elected Roopen Majithia to the committee by secret ballot.

09.12.05 Election to the Committee on Committees

C. Brett reported that no nominations were received. He will re-issue the call for nominations.

10.12.05 Report from the Academic Matters (Regulations) Committee

Motion (V. St. Pierre/C. Major): that Senate approve the changes the English requirements for admissions as outlined in the Academic Matters Committee (Regulations) Report for Senate, December 5, 2023.

Motion carried

V. St. Pierre noted that these changes update the Academic Calendar to reflect changes in the delivery and scoring of standardized tests of English language proficiency.

M. Cameron, International Recruitment and Admissions Manager, then answered questions from senators. First, M. Cameron noted that these requirements are administered at the time of admission. In response to a question from J. Devine, M. Cameron noted that the revisions are not a lowering of standards, but a shift to new, equivalent scoring systems. Moreover, the new regulations add sub-score requirements. In response to questions by R. MacKinnon, M. Cameron clarified the use of the internet based TOEFL (IBT) scores and noted that the university has a process for admission conditional on language proficiency. M. Cameron then described the

L. Michaelis asked why the proposed change to the Fall Study Break included the overlap with Thanksgiving rather than any other week. V. St. Pierre responding that the break is usually tied to a holiday. M. Hamilton said that he prefers to have extra teaching days in the term to any break at all. V. Meli wondered if a two-day break, perhaps at Thanksgiving, would be better. Peter Brown noted that the university used to have a two-day break near Remembrance Day.

The arguments for having the break in October

C. Major noted that an October break would occur in the seventh week of term, much like the Winter Break. She also noted that an October break would include the Fall Open House, and there may be advantages to holding the Open House outside of class time. B. Clayton noted that holding a break in the middle of term would counter a tendency she has observed for students to have a hard time refocusing for the final two weeks of term after a break in mid-November. L. Garnett noted that students in Fine Arts expressed a preference for a break in October. T. Reiffenstein noted that a November leaves very little time post-break for larger course projects.

The arguments for having the break in November

O. Hart underscored the benefits to students of a Fall Study Break, including providing space for catch-up and overall mental health. In her view, a break later in the term maximizes these benefits. T. Reiffenstein whether the Fall Open House would need to be moved if the break were in October. S. Runge asked whether an October break would become the new norm. V. St. Pierre answered that it would be for 2024 only. S. Runge responded that it would be better to have the break in roughly the same point in the term each year to aid with planning of events, especially in the Department of Music.

The Straw Poll

Senators then engaged in a straw poll to gauge the preferred timing of the Fall Study Break. The results were: 16 senators in favour of the October break and 13 in favour of the November break.

J. Devine noted that he will need more time to consider the options.

V. St. Pierre undertook to relay discussion to the committee.

11.12.05 Report from the Honorary Degrees Committee (in camera)

12.12.05 Other Business

There was no other business.

13.12.05 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm, as moved by V. St. Pierre.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Brett
Secretary