

MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY
FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, October 24th, 2017
4 pm
Cons 004 (The Band Room)

Note: Quorum was not achieved at this meeting and therefore no motions were entertained.

Present: L. Beck (Secretary), A. Cockshutt, G. Cruttwell, J. Devine, C. Forstall, C. Ionescu, P. Kelly Spurles, S. MacIver, J. Martínez, K. Meade, L. Michaelis, J. Ollerhead (Acting Chair), C. Parker, B. Robertson, E. Steuter, M. Truitt, B. Walters, and E. Wells.

Observers: E. Bush, N. Fry, and R. Howlett.

Regrets: R. Campbell, H. Lane, and E. Millar.

1. Approval of the Agenda.

2. Approval of the Minutes.

3. Report from the Chair.

J. Ollerhead assumed the role of chair for this meeting and mentioned a number of upcoming events and activities, including a funding-related announcement in the Music programme.

4. Week of Professional Development.

E. Wells proposed the creation of a week-long professional development period each spring when fewer scheduling conflicts would be experienced and faculty could undertake heads training, teaching workshops, and the mental health first aid course, rather than complete these and similar activities scattered throughout the year. It was thought that the week leading up to spring convocation would meet with the fewest scheduling challenges. Members received the proposal positively.

5. Institution's Commitment to Freedom of Inquiry and Expression.

J. Ollerhead spoke to the pre-circulated statement on freedom of expression and inquiry and related that R. Hiscock consulted similar statements from a number of Canadian universities and from the University of Chicago before devising the brief statement for Mount Allison University. The provost invited feedback from members concerning how the statement could be used and better developed. P. Kelly-Spurles expressed concern about some language in the statement and existing provisions for freedom of expression at the national level. L. Michaelis suggested we do not need a statement because we already have policies as well as laws that define freedom of speech. M. Truitt commented that freedom of expression is a right and other faculty stated that a statement is

not needed because we already have policies and laws in place. J. Martínez questioned the suitability of the director of marketing to formulate this statement. E. Steuter proposed that a meaningful and disciplinarily inclusive collaboration on this subject from colleagues would be more useful than a statement from the marketing department. L. Michaelis suggested a free speech-related workshop and an invited speaker like James Turk at Ryerson, who could also speak to different scenarios in which free speech may be challenged or made difficult to ensure. Members desired to see more discussion and consultation, as well as education, before finalizing any statement or policy.

6. Other Business.

M. Truitt announced that a student has lost her small pet rat named Mango, which may be in the library; please report sightings of him to access services. White with a brown head, 3.5 inches long not including tail. He is friendly. P. Kelly-Spurles announced that she is making pins featuring Library of Congress codes and offered to make them for members.

7. Adjournment at 4:58 pm.