



Policy Motion Number: 2307 (2020-01)	Passed: 2020-01
Title  Policy on Content warnings and Mental health in the classroom	Expires: 2023-01

WHEREAS the MASU advocates for a safe and supportive environment for students mental health in the classroom and beyond;

WHEREAS Mental Health First Aid training should be a priority for all faculty and professors in order to respond to circumstances that may arise in classrooms and office hours;

WHEREAS content warnings may be defined as prior advisory of material that may invoke the reliving of past traumas;<sup>1</sup>

WHEREAS Mount Allison is committed to both the academic and non-academic development of students and seeks to remove attitudinal and environmental barriers which may hamper or prevent students with disabilities from participating fully in University life;<sup>2</sup>

WHEREAS the onset of poor mental health and/or mental illness symptoms can be due to exposure of distressing materials;

WHEREAS the inclusion of content warnings does not censor course content or discussion, but expands academic speech and engages students more fully in their own learning; <sup>3</sup>

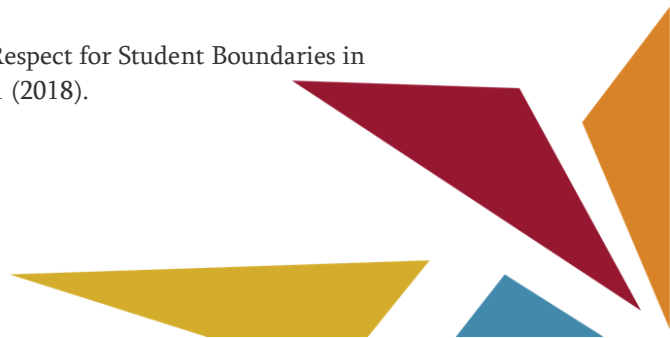
WHEREAS the inclusion of content warnings supports a positive classroom environment and shows respect for the individual needs of students;

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<sup>1</sup> Spencer, Leland G., and Theresa A. Kulbaga. "Trigger Warnings as Respect for Student Boundaries in University Classrooms." *Journal of Curriculum and Pedagogy*15, no. 1 (2018).

<sup>2</sup> Mount Allison Policy on Students with Disabilities

<sup>3</sup> Spencer, Leland G., and Theresa A. Kulbaga. "Trigger Warnings as Respect for Student Boundaries in University Classrooms." *Journal of Curriculum and Pedagogy*15, no. 1 (2018).





WHEREAS material that may lead to the onset of poor mental health and/or mental illness symptoms may include, but is not limited to: suicide, self-harm, depression, sexual assault, eating disorders, miscarriage/abortion, child abuse/pedophilia, abuse (mental, physical, emotional, sexual), violence, death, and dying;

BE IT RESOLVED that the MASU endorses Mental Health First Aid Training as well as other professional forms both online and elsewhere for all professors in order to provide assistance in the event of a traumatic experience;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MASU encourages the content of each course taught at Mount Allison be reviewed for content that may result in the onset of poor mental health and/or mental illness symptoms;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED The MASU advocates that students be informed of the presentation of potentially upsetting material a day prior to the lecture or lab in which this material will be presented as well as be notified in the course syllabus from the outset of the academic year.