



POLICY MOTION NUMBER 2303 (2018-04)	PASSED: DEC 3RD, 2018
TITLE POLICY ON ONLINE EDUCATION	EXPIRES: DEC 3RD, 2021

WHEREAS online education has been shown to positively affect learning at post-secondary institutions while simultaneously garnering significant support from students;¹

WHEREAS Mount Allison students have long enjoyed the benefits of online courses for their flexibility, accessibility, quality and content diversity;

WHEREAS the external review summary of the Continuous Learning department attested to the high value of online courses to Mount Allison, and further argued against the dismantling of the department itself;²

WHEREAS the correspondence course program, supported by the correspondence course payment method as defined in the PT Collective Agreement, offered a way in which online courses could be consistently offered to students;³

WHEREAS Mount Allison students have rigorously and passionately defended these courses at every turn for their benefit to the community;

WHEREAS online courses are especially critical to students with physical disabilities, students with mental illness or health challenges, student athletes, mature students, and part-time students;

WHEREAS similar competitor universities in the region offer a diverse and deep pool of online courses, including Maple League institutions;

¹ James M. Mbuva, "Online Education: Progress and Prospects," *Journal of Business and Educational Leadership* 5, no. 1 (2014): 94; Lee Yuan-Hsuan et al., "Revisit the Effect of Teaching and Learning with Technology," *Journal of Educational Technology & Society* 16, no. 1 (2013): 140.

² S. McClatchie, "Continuous Learning at Mount Allison University: A Response to the External and Internal Review Reports," *Mount Allison University*, 2010.

³ See Part-Time Collective Agreement Section 30.01 (b) for elaboration.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MASU advocates for a diverse and deep pool of online courses offered through Mount Allison during all terms, including Fall and Winter;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MASU supports the use of the correspondence course payment method as one way to increase courses;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MASU recommends the pursuit of partnerships with other post-secondary institutions, including those of the Maple League, in consolidating resources towards a shared set of online courses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MASU endorses the exploration of hybrid courses at Mount Alison, but not as a replacement for wholly online courses.