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MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS CREATES WORKING GROUP TO DECIDE HOW STUDENTS WILL BE COMPENSATED FOLLOWING FACULTY STRIKE

Sackville, NB — On May 13th, 2014, Mount Allison University's Board of Regents heard board member Melissa O'Rourke give a presentation on compensating all Mount Allison students with a tuition rebate following the Mount Allison Faculty Association (MAFA) three-week strike, resulting in the loss of twelve instructional days and significant disruption to the 2014 winter semester. The Board of Regents discussed the issue and agreed to create a working group to decide how students will be appropriately compensated for hardships associated with the disruption.

"While it is disappointing that not all students will receive a tuition rebate, this option does provide the opportunity to focus the discussion around specific adverse effects of the strike and how to best reach out to those students," says Heather Webster, Mount Allison Students' Union (MASU) President. "Our presentation to the board demonstrated that not all concerns had been considered and the working group has been tasked with addressing those concerns, which is a better result than providing no aid or compensation to any students."

The working group will consist of board members, administration, and students. Board members expressed sympathy with issues raised in the MASU tuition rebate proposal and presentation that had not been considered before. Students involved in the working group are MASU President, Heather Webster; MASU Vice-President, Academic Affairs, Kyle Nimmrichter; and Board of Regents Representative, Ian Nason. The working group will begin its discussion immediately. Further details about its timeline will be communicated to members once that information becomes available.

The Board of Regents made it clear that not all full- and part-time Mount Allison students will be issued a tuition rebate; however, the conversation about addressing the kinds of hardships associated with the disruption will continue. Heather Webster says, "I will be taking the letters received in support of the tuition rebate to the working group to help focus on the most adverse effects of the strike and to find solutions for how those situations can be fairly compensated."

The Mount Allison Students' Union represents all full- and part-time undergraduate and graduate students at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick.