



**MOUNT ALLISON STUDENTS' UNION**

**SUBMISSION TO THE  
AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON  
SENATE PROCEDURES  
NOVEMBER 2014**

## PREAMBLE

Mount Allison University is an undergraduate institution that prides and markets itself on high levels of interaction and respect between professors and students and labels itself as an institution of ideas and progress. As students of this progressive institution, we are greatly impacted by the results of the decisions of Mount Allison University Senate and the efficiency of the process by which these decisions come about. As such, the Mount Allison Students Union hereby submits its recommendations to the Ad-Hoc Committee on Senate Procedures.

The submission you will find below, signed by the Chairperson of the Students' Administrative Council, was authored by the Academic Affairs Committee, a standing committee of the MASU. It was then ratified by the Students' Administrative Council on November 3rd, 2014. On behalf of the MASU, I thank the Ad-Hoc Committee on Senate Procedures for considering our submission in pursuit of the development of standing rules of order for Mount Allison University Senate.

Kyle Nimmrichter  
Vice-President, Academic Affairs

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Any standing rules of order that are developed for Senate must be compatible with the Mount Allison University Act and the Mount Allison University Bylaws.

The Mount Allison University Act makes the President of Mount Allison University the Chair of Senate and the Vice President (Academic) the Vice-Chair. In this context, the use of Bourinot's rules of order without modification creates a fundamental contradiction in the position of the chair as described below:

Many of the academic issues that are discussed and debated in Senate pertain to responsibilities or decisions made by the President of Mount Allison or other senior members of the administration; the President therefore needs to be able to take part in discussions that are held at Senate.

However, Bourinot's rules of order require the Chair to be impartial. So if Senate uses Bourinot's rules without adapting them, the President is required to be impartial because of their role as Chair of Senate while at the same time partial because of their role as President of Mount Allison.

The Chair of an assembly does not need to be impartial; most town councils have the mayor as Chair. In this context though the standing rules of order need

to reflect the reality and not be predicated on the assumption that the Chair is impartial.

Bearing all of this in mind, the MASU believes that the Senate Ad-Hoc Committee on Senate Procedures should investigate and propose standing rules of order that would better reflect the reality in Senate that the Chair is not and should not be expected to be impartial.

The MASU also believes that because of the inherent partiality of the chair, communications regarding any business of senate should go through the Secretary of Senate as opposed to the Office of the President.

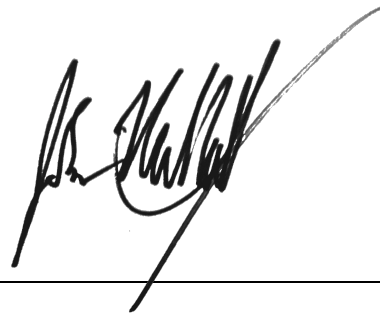
The MASU also believes that a handbook or guide for new senators should be developed. This document would include information on the role of a member of Senate, Senate meeting procedures and Senate rules of order.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



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**KYLE NIMMRICHTER**  
Vice-President, Academic Affairs



**JOHN NUTTALL**  
Chairperson,  
Students' Administrative Council

Cc: Members of the Mount Allison Students' Union