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DECISION TO INCREASE CORRESPONDENCE TUITION RETRACTED FOR WINTER 2016

SACKVILLE, NB — On December 4th 2015, the Mount Allison University's Vice President Finance and Administration, Robert Inglis, sent a student-wide email saying that the "University's Administration has decided not to proceed... [with the correspondence tuition increase] for the winter term as... planned". On December 1st 2015, the Mount Allison Students' Union (MASU) organized a student demonstration in Senate calling for the "Board of Regents to revise the 2015-2016 University Budget concerning the topic of Correspondence Course Tuition". Approximately 400-500 students stood alongside the MASU on December 1st to declare their support.

According to Inglis' email the 2015-2016 Budget will still be reviewed by the Board of Regents. Currently, President Dylan Wooley-Berry and Willa McCaffrey-Noviss represent MASU on the Board of Regents. "This is obviously a huge win for us," says Vice President Academic Affairs, Mary Emma MacNeil. "Students clearly demonstrated the effect increased correspondence tuition would have on their education and financial stability. Although the change to tuition billing will not be effective this winter 2016 semester, it will definitely a topic of discussion in the future – this time as an entire university community." MacNeil brought the motion forward in Senate.

"Students did it; we did it," says Vice President Communications, Tina Oh. "Earlier this week, approximately 30% of students engaged in a demonstration against the tuition increase. Three days later the University announces their decision to retract the fee. It just shows how much influence student engagement and mobilization can have on these types of decisions."

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