

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING

March 11, 2011

2:30 p.m. – Room F210

MEMBERS PRESENT:

L. Lovett-Doust (Chair), V. Paine-Mantha, B. Keech, R. Vanderlee,
J. McAuliffe, B. Nettlefold, A. Robinson

G. Brown, G. Brophey, C. Mang, K. McCullough, J. Nadeau

J. Abbott, A. Burk, N. Colborne, R. Gendron, D. Jowett, U. Kundraats,
C. McFarlane, R. Nagy, D. Neal, F. Noël, S. O'Hagan, G. Phillips,
S. Renshaw, V. Valov, H. Zhu

K. Clausen, S. Elliott-Johns, K. Ferguson, D. Franks, B. Hatt, D. Hay,
D. Jarvis, N. Maynes, M. Parr, G. Raymer, A. Steele

A. Wagner (Muskoka)

D. Armstrong

W. Ingwersen, R. Mulligan

L. McLaren

C. Dennis, B. Woodford

D. Thompson

M. Adamson, A. Fielding, R. Lahti, T. Prince, N. Smart, B. Smith

ABSENCE WITH REGRETS:

S. Rich, C. Cooper

T. Koivukoski

C. Brew, J. Corkett, C. Ricci

J. Vitale (Brantford)

I. Laplante

The minutes of the February 11, 2011 Senate meeting were adopted.

READING and DISPOSING of COMMUNICATIONS

Senator Lovett-Doust was pleased to report that the intensive series of meetings to explain the special circumstances of Nipissing University to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities and the Ministry of Education has paid off. Nipissing University was granted special treatment with regard to the proposed cuts in funded student places in teacher education. Nipissing's funding reduction will be 1.5% (which means a loss of 54 seats). The other teacher education programs across the province will be cut by 2.4%. If we had experienced the same proportionate cuts, we would have lost 92 seats (or \$1.38M).

The President also reported that Senators McLaren and Robinson have made a joint proposal for \$57K to the provincial government to improve the credit transfer process for college graduates

QUESTION PERIOD

A question was asked regarding the process that was followed to terminate the contract of the Vice-President Academic and Research. The President responded by indicating she was not able to provide a detailed response because the matter was still under review.

There was a question concerning the process used to hire the Chief Operating Officer. The President responded by noting that with a university of this size, many senior level jobs at Nipissing University are broad based compared to their counterparts at larger institutions. She noted that to continue to provide good service and support, a third area of senior responsibility, for service and operations was instituted. This position is an administrative position and the President noted that the COO is supervised and answers to the president. A summary of these changes was provided through NU News and a university community e-mail.

MOTION 1: Moved by F. Noel, seconded by R. Gendron that Senate conduct a vote of "no confidence" in the President of Nipissing University in so far as she has presided over a system which seriously jeopardizes the future viability of the institution. The concerns include:

- A blatant disrespect for Senate;
- The arbitrary changes made to the new library;
- The recent administrative restructuring;
- The arbitrary dismissals which have occurred, most particularly that of the VPAR who was only recently selected to lead the academic sides of the institution by a duly formed committee of the board and senate;
- The arbitrary appointment of individuals to interim positions; and
- The arbitrary decision to delay the evaluation of positions and the manner in which this was communicated to the university community.

Together, these have had a negative impact on the academic budget and Nipissing's ability to deliver its academic programs and have contributed to a climate of intimidation which is directly counter to our mission statement.

CARRIED

The vote was conducted by secret ballot. The speaker pointed out to senate that such a motion is not part of senate procedure or Robert's Rules, and therefore is merely "symbolic."

MOTION 2: Moved by G. Phillips, seconded by C. McFarlane that the results of the motion of no confidence be conveyed to the Board of Governors by Senators G. Phillips, S. Renshaw, and F. Noël.

CARRIED

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Senate Executive Committee

MOTION 3: Moved by L. Lovett-Doust, seconded by C. McFarlane that the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated March 3, 2011 be received.
CARRIED

MOTION 4: Moved by L. Lovett-Doust, seconded by K. McCullough that Senate move into an in-camera session.
CARRIED

MOTION 5: Moved by L. Lovett-Doust, seconded by G. Phillips that Senate move out of the in-camera session.
CARRIED

Undergraduate Studies Committee

MOTION 6: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by C. McFarlane that the Report of the Undergraduate Studies Committee dated February 7, 2011 be received.
CARRIED

FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCE

Biology and Chemistry:

MOTION 7: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by R. Mulligan that Senate approve the total hours for BIOL3267 – Animal Physiology be revised to read: 36 hours of instruction.
CARRIED

English Studies:

MOTION 8: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by D. Jowett that Senate approve the addition of the following courses:

- ACAD1501 - Preparation for Academic Writing
- ACAD1601 - Academic Writing. ACAD1601 only may count toward the breadth requirement for Humanities.

CARRIED

MOTION 9: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by C. McFarlane that Senate approve the addition of the following courses:

- ACAD2601 - Academic Writing in the Humanities
- ACAD2701 - Academic Writing in the Social Sciences
- ACAD2801 - Academic Writing in the Sciences
- ACAD2901 - Academic Writing in the Applied and Professional Studies.

CARRIED

Non-substantive change for Senate's information: That ENGL1105 be unbanked.

MOTION 10: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by S. Renshaw that Senate approve that the degree requirements for a BA4 Honours (single major) in Gender Equality and Social Justice be reduced to 60 credits by reducing the required GEND upper level courses or courses cross-listed with GEND from 33 to 27.

CARRIED

MOTION 11: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by S. Renshaw that Senate approve the deletion of GEND2266 – Queer Media from the Gender Equality and Social Justice curriculum.

CARRIED

MOTION 12: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by S. Renshaw that Senate approve the addition of the following courses to the Gender Equality and Social Justice curriculum:

- GEND2056 Selected Topics in Culture and Criticism
- GEND3046 Queer Media

CARRIED

MOTION 13: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by G. Brown that Senate approve the deletion of the following courses from the Sociology curriculum:

- SOCI2206 - Demography: Introduction to Population Studies
- SOCI3206 - Population and Society
- SOCI4126 – Survey Research

CARRIED

MOTION 14: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by G. Brown that Senate approve the addition of the following courses to the Sociology curriculum:

- SOCI3057 - Demography: Introduction to Population Studies
- SOCI4206 – Determinants of Population Change
- SOCI3226 – Survey Research

CARRIED

Non-substantive change for Senate's information: The title of the course SOCI4127 - Multivariate Statistics be changed to SOCI4127 - Applied Multivariate Statistics.

MOTION 15: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by G. Brown that Senate approve the deletion of the following courses from the sociology curriculum:

- SOCI2086 - Introduction to Criminological Theory
- SOCI2087 – Introduction to the Canadian Criminal Justice System
- SOCI3157 - Diversity and Age

CARRIED

MOTION 16: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by G. Brown that Senate approve the cross listing of CRJS2086 - Introduction to Criminological Theory and CRJS1087 - Introduction to the Canadian Criminal Justice System to the Sociology curriculum.

CARRIED

Non-substantive change for Senate's information: That the title of ECON-1006 be changed from “Introduction to Economics I” to “Introduction to Microeconomics”, and that the title of ECON1007 be changed from “Introduction to Economics II” to “Introduction to Macroeconomics”.

MOTION 17: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by S. Renshaw that Senate approve the addition of RLCT2076 – Health, Healing, and Religion to the RLCT curriculum.
REFERRED BACK TO USC FOR CLARIFICATION

Graduate Studies Council

MOTION 18: Moved by D. Jarvis, seconded by V. Valov that the Report of the Graduate Studies Council dated February 14 2011 be received.
CARRIED

MOTION 19: Moved by D. Jarvis, seconded by C. McFarlane that Senate approve the revised School of Graduate Studies academic regulations document, as attached.
REFERRED BACK TO GSC FOR A SUMMARY OF CHANGES

MOTION 20: That Senate approve the revised School of Graduate Studies governance document, as attached.
REFERRED BACK TO GSC FOR A SUMMARY OF CHANGES

MOTION 21: Moved by D. Jarvis, seconded by S. Elliott-Johns that Senate approve the addition of EDUC5496 - Meanings of Literacy to the MEd program, as attached.
CARRIED

AMENDMENT of BY-LAWS

MOTION 22: Moved by K. McCullough, seconded by N. Colborne that Article 9.3.2 (a) of the Senate bylaws be amended to add:

- The Director of Student Development and Success (non-voting)
CARRIED

ELECTIONS

- Elect one tenured faculty member from the Faculty of Applied and Profession Studies *or* the Faculty of Arts and Science to serve on the search committee for a Tier II Canada Research Chair within the School of Physical and Health Education

ACCLAIMED: J. Kovacs

- Elect one representative, from the Faculty of Applied and Professional Studies to sit on the Selection Committee for the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching and for the Nipissing University Award for part-time teaching.

ACCLAIMED: W. Caswell

REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

Board of Governors

Senator Woodford, Board of Governors representative to Senate, reported that there was a meeting of the Board of Governors on February 3, 2011. The Board meeting was held on Thursday, February 3. He noted that there was a presentation by Ms. Megan Venasse, Development Officer, on the role of planned giving and investing in the future. Senator Dennis indicated that there were two resolutions from the Advancement Committee that were passed outlining revisions to the *Naming of Campus Assets Policy* and the *Gift Acceptance Policy*. A resolution was also passed to grant an easement on the east side of College Drive to the City of North Bay to construct a Booster Pumping Station and water main. This is subject to finalization of a legal agreement and Memorandum of Understanding on a 4 metre wide year round multi-use trail.

Alumni Advisory Board

Senator Thompson commented that the Alumni Advisory Board is continuing to grow and strengthen. He noted that a breakfast is being planned with the university chancellor.

Teacher Education Advisory Committee

Concerns were raised that this committee has not met. Senator McAuliffe indicated he would follow up.

NEW BUSINESS

As a result of Senate referring Motions 19 and 20 back to the Graduate Studies Council for clarification, the following motion was passed:

MOTION 23: Moved by M. Parr, seconded by D. Franks that all reports sent to senate committees from Senate for revisions, or documents that have undergone substantive revisions by a senate standing committee/subcommittee, clearly identify any changes made to the document using track changes or some other form of highlighting.
CARRIED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The President announced that she had the privilege of attending the Aboriginal Post secondary gathering in Toronto last week where the Minister of Training, College and Universities launched the new Aboriginal Postsecondary Education and Training Policy Framework document. She was pleased to report that two panel discussions were lead by Senator McLaren and Doug Dokis. She added that both the Minister and Deputy Minister cited Nipissing in their remarks with reference to the Student Links program and other initiatives.

The President reminded senators that next week is March UpClose. She stated that many faculty had already stepped forward to participate in this event, and thanked senators in advance for their involvement. She reminded senators that Nipissing has the highest conversion rate of on-site visiting applicants to registrants in the province. Senator Robinson added that to date, approximately 500 guests have signed up for the week's events.

The President expressed her concern over the decline in the number of applications this year. The general discussion of a surplus of teachers in the system overall has impacted not only Education applications, but also applications to the subjects that students often take in their BA or BSc programs. Currently, the recruiting team is visiting colleges in order to encourage eligible diploma graduates to complete a degree at Nipissing. A number of advertising initiatives are also being implemented. She invited senators to identify distinctive features about their programs and send them to the President's office, and encouraged all to participate in the process of student recruitment. She also noted that the university will describe its programs in more detail on

the Ontario Universities' Application Centre website; at present Nipissing merely lists the degrees available (BA, BSc, etc.), rather than also listing the subject areas. An electronic search of the OUAC site fails to reveal the array of options in BA and BSc degrees; this means that potential students do not necessarily realize the diversity of majors and specializations available at Nipissing.

The Vice-President Finance and Administration reminded senators that the key to all our budgetary initiatives is to support and build enrolment.

The Dean of Applied and Professional Studies reported that Nipissing University has become home to the first Canadian Chapter of the Criminal Justice Honours Society. The Nipissing chapter name is Mu Kappa and the Dean added that this is a significant achievement for Nipissing. The Dean was also please to announce that several upper year nursing students will be involved in a program to explore the roles of health care within Canada, the United States and Mexico. Each student will receive travel stipends between \$3K and \$4K. The project will allow nursing students to acquire new language skills and cultural insight.

Student union president, Senator Lahti reported that NUSU has raised \$600 toward the Haitian relief fund. He also shared that a group of students went to South Carolina over the break and did work for Habitat for Humanity. The healthy eating campaign is still ongoing and nominations for valedictorian begin next week. Senator Prince was welcomed to Senate as the new student union senator.

Senate was adjourned: 4:18 p.m.

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L. Lovett-Doust, President

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C. Jenkins, Senate Secretary