

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING

April 15, 2011

2:30 p.m. – Room F210

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

G. Brown, C. Mang

J. Abbott, A. Burk, N. Colborne, D. Jowett, T. Koivukoski, N. Kozuskanich U.
Kundrats, C. McFarlane, R. Nagy, F. Noël, S. O'Hagan, G. Phillips,
S. Renshaw, H. Zhu

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

A. Wagner (Muskoka), J. Vitale (Brantford)

W. Ingwersen, R. Mulligan

L. McLaren

C. Dennis

D. Thompson

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

ABSENCE WITH REGRETS:

A. Robinson

G. Brophey, K. McCullough

R. Gendron, V. Valov

J. Corkett

B. Woodford

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

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Senator Dennis, Board of Governor's representative to Senate, read the following report which is a compilation of input from himself, Peter Gavan, Chair of the Board of Governors and the Office of the President.

"My name is Colin Dennis and I am a member of the Board of Governors and serve, along with Brent Woodford, as the two Board representatives on Senate. I would like to present a Summary Statement to the motion of no-confidence made during Question Period at the last Senate meeting of March 11.

This summary statement represents a thorough account of the events and issues related to the Senate motion and it will take me a few minutes to read in its entirety.

The Speaker of Senate, Dr. Blaine Hatt, reminded senators that the vote had no authority and was symbolic in nature. Senate By-laws have no reference to a 'no confidence vote'. Both Nipissing's Senate and Board of Governors follow Robert's Rules of Order for general rules of procedure at meetings. Robert's Rules of Order contains no reference to a 'no confidence vote.' Such a vote occurs in parliamentary environments where there is a government and an opposition. That is not the intended design of Senate where faculty members make up the majority of participants.

It is a fact that no Chair, Dean or VPAR raised with the President the concerns that were cited in the Senate meeting. The genesis of the March 11th Senate motion, bypassed several administrative officers and appeared to circumvent the authority and responsibility of Chairs, Deans and the Vice-President Academic and Research. The Board Executive Committee met on March 14th. An in camera session was added to the Agenda; the Board Chair requested that only voting members of the Board Executive Committee remain present.

It was noted that Nipissing University has a bicameral system of governance and there are specific roles and responsibilities of the Senate and Board, as defined by Bylaws and the Nipissing University Act. Moreover, the Nipissing Act is abundantly clear about the relationships among the Board, Senate and President. The purview of the Board Executive is clearly defined in the Nipissing Act. The President has authority for administrative decisions. Only the Board has jurisdiction with regard to its one employee, the President. The Board Executive Committee members expressed their strong support of the President and the strategic direction of her leadership of Nipissing University.

The Chancellor and President held a press conference on Monday, March 14 and issued a press release. Reference was made to Section #3 of the Nipissing University Act that states, "the objectives of the university are the pursuit of learning through scholarship, teaching and research within a spirit of free inquiry and expression." Faculty members have many avenues for expressing concerns or opinions, in particular through their Chairs, Deans, and the Vice- President Academic and Research. No such concerns were transmitted to the President in advance of the Senate motion. Nipissing's Board of Governors has a formal process for the Annual Review of the President, which is conducted each year in April. This provides opportunity for the NU community, through their Board representatives, to provide input and feedback.

A letter signed by Senators Noel, Phillips and Renshaw, was sent to the Board Chair on March 15 requesting that the no confidence motion be communicated to the Board of Governors. In his response to the three senators, on March 15, the Board Chair communicated in writing that the letter would be placed on the Agenda of the next Executive Committee meeting to be held on March 28.

The letter was discussed by the Board Executive Committee members. The Board Chair stated that he would prepare a letter of response to the three senators encouraging them to engage in open communication with the Department Chairs, Deans, Vice-President Academic and Research and the President on any issues they deem important. This letter was issued on March 29th.

The three senators attended the April 7th Board meeting (Open Session) as guests. Receipt of their letter was acknowledged under Correspondence and it was referred to the Closed Session of the Agenda for discussion. The Board Chair noted that Dr. Phillips had hand-delivered another letter to him at the start of the Board meeting intending that it be included on the Agenda. The Board Chair explained that this would not be possible since Agenda items must be received by the Board Executive Committee well in advance of the Board meeting.

As an outcome of the discussions in Closed Session at the April 7th Board meeting, a meeting was scheduled with the three senators, the President and the Board Chair for Monday, April 11 at 1:00 p.m. This was communicated to the three senators, via a formal letter, which was preceded by both an email and voice mail message from the Board Secretary indicating that the letter would be placed in their respective mailboxes on Friday afternoon.

On Sunday afternoon, one of the three senators sent an email to the Board Chair indicating that they were perplexed by the lack of an agenda for the meeting and seeking clarification as to whether they were the appropriate individuals to be present. The Board Chair again extended the invitation for the senators to attend the planned meeting. On Monday morning, two additional emails (8:15 and 9:30 a.m.) were sent to the Board Chair expressing hesitation and reluctance; again the response was to meet, as scheduled, to continue to work towards a positive resolution. Dr. Noel and Dr. Phillips met with the President and Board Chair on Monday, April 11.

The Board of Governors is concerned that the substance of the no-confidence motion is based on false information, a misunderstanding of the role of Senate in decision-making and reckless disregard for the possible consequences of this public attack.

At this time, I am pleased to present the facts in response to the specific points raised in the motion:

1. “President has presided over a system which seriously jeopardizes the future viability of the institution.”

The Board members are aware that the President’s efforts over the past 19 months have been focused on improving the strategic position of Nipissing University. This has, in part, been done through fostering development of an innovative strategic planning process that engaged hundreds of individuals in the university community. A large number of Strategic Objectives were identified, and Action Planning Teams are already well underway, addressing almost half of the identified objectives so far. Their action plans will assign duties and timelines to achieve each strategic outcome; will be reviewed and put into action; indeed some of the stated Strategic Outcomes have already been achieved.

While Maclean’s magazine is not the ultimate arbiter of university quality, according to its annual review, Nipissing ranks nationally near the bottom of the small, primarily undergraduate universities. Nipissing has room for improvement. The President has been encouraging the academic leadership (VPAR, Deans, academic directors and faculty) to develop new programming that addresses the interests of students, and diversifies the academic portfolio, and new initiatives in research.

While the long-standing core of Education has now been reinforced through the Schulich benefaction, it is important for Nipissing to develop beyond the current emphasis on K-12 teacher education through enhanced undergraduate programming, graduate study and research so that the university can attract and retain faculty who wish to engage in both teaching and research mentoring as teacher/scholars, as identified in the Strategic Plan.

This encouragement of academic initiatives has been successful. There are several new programs available or in development at Nipissing including several options in Science and Technology, a major in Political Science, first steps on a Social Work program, new degree completion programs for practical nurses and business students holding college diplomas, progress on a major in Natural Resources, a Master’s in Environmental Science/Environmental Studies, and Nipissing’s first doctoral program, in Education, which will receive external review in a couple of weeks. More faculty members are developing grant proposals and securing funds to support their students, and Research Office support for developing grant proposals is being enhanced. Nipissing now has

representatives of government and industry on campus to connect with researchers and build opportunities for research collaborations.

2. A “blatant disrespect” for Senate

The President is the Chair of Senate. The President attends Senate as a voting member. The President has served on the Senate of five institutions in a variety of capacities, and holds Senate and its role in high regard. At Nipissing the representative Senate has been in place for three years. Each year, significant changes have been made to its bylaws as policies are tested in practice and as Senators identify areas that require improvement. A work-in-progress, Nipissing’s Senate continues to evolve, and become more effective in shaping the academic agenda.

Senate Executive is the oversight committee of Senate that sets the agenda for Senate meetings; it has responsibility to determine if materials are ready for Senate. Where language in a subcommittee report is confusing or inaccurate, it has been the practice of members of Senate Executive to raise and discuss any suggestions on changes. Ideally, subcommittee materials should move to Senate expeditiously, so when members of Senate Executive feel that the changes are minor, such editorial changes have been made through consensus.

If concerns are significant, or where it is not possible to determine the intent of unclear wording and/or the chair of the subcommittee is not available to explain the intent of the subcommittee, the proposal is returned to the Senate subcommittee for review and further discussion.

The President is Chair of Senate Executive. In response to general concerns about the difficulty of comparing old and new versions of documents, it has now been decided, in a Senate motion that is forthcoming and supported by the President, that all Senate committee/subcommittee documents clearly identify any changes made to the document using “Track Changes” or some other form of highlighting to indicate any changes made from previous documents or versions of policies etc.

3. “Arbitrary” changes made to the new Library”

*The Learning Library is a joint venture with Canadore College. It is not solely a university Library; indeed that was the selling point for securing significant government and private funding. Any adjustments made over the lifetime of the project have been the product of joint discussions between the two institutions. **It was at the suggestion of Canadore** that the number of student workstations and collaborative spaces was increased. Currently there are 228 student seats in the old Library. There will now be 595 seats (and given the enthusiasm of our students for the new facilities, even this number may not satisfy the demands of a student population of over 7,000). The shelving available is 109% of the prior shelving, and additional shelving of up to approximately 8700 linear feet can be acquired if, and when, onsite holdings increase. Furthermore, should pressure on space increase, and if approval of the two Boards is secured, the two institutions have the opportunity to seek funding and support to add a fourth floor to the Learning Library.*

4. “The recent administrative restructuring”

With regard to administrative re-organization, it is stated in the Nipissing Act, “The President is Chief Executive Officer of the University and has supervision over and direction of the academic and general administration of the University, the members of faculty, officers, employees and students, and such other powers and duties as may be conferred upon him or her by the Board.” The administrative restructuring was developed collaboratively by the entire executive team to address challenges with the inordinately heavy and diverse portfolios of the two Vice-Presidents, reallocating some responsibilities from each to a third senior administrator, the Chief Operating Officer.

These changes were summarized and explained in a news release to the community in early January 2011. It was deemed critical that the Vice-President Academic and Research (VPAR) focus on academic and research matters, since these are two of the four key elements of the strategic plan. The Vice-President Finance and Administration (VPFA) was to place more emphasis on the critical areas of infrastructure and major capital planning, and the Chief Operating Officer was to add to his existing responsibilities regarding technology and infrastructure, previously in under the VPFA, other support areas that were related to inter-institutional (shared) services and student development and support. It was made very clear that Nipissing's input on the academic direction and resource content of the Library would remain the responsibility of the VPAR and Senate Library Committee, under the leadership of the faculty and Deans. Academic leadership of the Learning Library holdings (physical and electronic) continues to guide the policy regarding acquisitions, going forward.

Changes made in the Research Services areas were made to enhance support for faculty development and success in securing external research funds. At the request of the previous VPAR, and with the full support of the university executive, a senior, established academic was put in place in the leadership position in Research Services (an Associate Vice-President academic and research). In recognition of the need to stimulate and facilitate greater success in securing external research grants and contracts, additional staff were re-allocated to this priority area, and liaison representatives from industry and government were brought into the Research Services unit at no additional cost to the university.

Finally it is noted that this was Administrative restructuring, not a restructuring of Academic units. As such it is an administrative concern, enacted in order to improve services and support of the core academic and research initiatives underway in the institution.

5. The “arbitrary dismissals” which have occurred, most particularly that of the VPAR who was only recently selected to lead the academic side of the institution by a duly formed committee of the Board and Senate

Any background related to the departure of the Vice-President Academic and Research is an HR matter; it is confidential and no one is at liberty to discuss such matters in a public forum.

6. The “arbitrary appointment” of individuals to interim positions

*The President, as Chief Executive Officer, has sole discretion (as per the Act and Board Bylaws) and indeed is **required** to make interim appointments when a vacancy occurs. With the departure of the VPAR, the President was obliged to appoint an Interim VPAR in accordance with Board policy: the Policy and Procedures for the Search/Appointment/Reappointment of Senior Academic Administrative Officers. I quote from the policy....*

*“If the incumbent's office becomes vacant through death, resignation, or other causes, it is the Principal's **responsibility** to appoint an interim senior academic administrator and to initiate the process of filling the vacancy as prescribed in Section E - Composition of Search Committees.”*

It has long been the practice at Nipissing, in accordance with this policy, to appoint individuals to interim positions when they become vacant. There is no arbitrary element to this practice, and it was not limited to the case of the VPAR position.

7. The “arbitrary” decision to delay the evaluation of positions and the manner in which this was communicated to the university community

As was pointed out in the internal announcement on February 23, 2011, the decision to review the evaluation process of positions (staff “job evaluation”) was made in response to a written request from OPSEU. There has been a long history of dissatisfaction with the efficacy of the process used for administrative and support staff employees. This is an OPSEU and administrative staff matter and does not affect Senate since members of the faculty belong to a separate bargaining unit.

8. “Together, these have had a negative impact on the academic budget and Nipissing’s ability to deliver its academic programs.”

The university administration has the responsibility of matching expenditures to revenues, and the Board exercises oversight of the fiscal responsibility of the Administration. Budget allocations among priorities in the academic budget begin with the Chairs and Deans. In all areas of budget, the objective is optimal allocation of resources to where they can best further the strategic objectives of the university.

University revenues are driven primarily by our ability to recruit outstanding students. Student numbers (and the particular programs they are in) dictate the government’s “transfer grant” funds; these funds plus the tuition paid by students constitute the bulk of the resources available for support of the university.

Also at the March 11th Senate meeting, the President was the target of a public, personal slander. The Board of Governors is very concerned about the damaging effects of broad dissemination and wide acceptance of inaccurate and misleading information. The Board’s perspective is that erroneous or false information should not be propagated.

This issue reflects badly on the entire NU community and has damaged our profile and reputation at a time when we are competing intensely to recruit new students. Ironically, the March Up Close Event ran on Monday, March 14, the next working day following the vote of no-confidence at Senate.

The Board of Governors is concerned about effective communication and collaborative, positive relationships among all stakeholders. To improve communication challenges, the following avenues for future discussions have been proposed and implemented.

The President is known for her open door policy for all members of the university community. Senators, faculty or staff may bring ideas, concerns and suggestions to her attention and are invited to do so by setting an appointment. The President, in collaboration with the Vice-President Academic and Research and other appropriate administrative team members, will receive any suggestions and address the concerns.

Of course, respecting the responsibilities and roles of other administrators, the President’s staff ask individuals seeking an appointment with the President if they have discussed matters with, in this order, their Chairs, Deans, and the Vice-President Academic and Research. They are always urged to begin with the appropriate administrator; this general working principle tends to result in faster problem solving, and empowers all individuals to solve challenges that they may face.

- *The President has invited Deans, Directors and Department Chairs to meet for individual discussions*
- *The President has welcomed Faculty to meet and talk in order to express and explain concerns they may have*
- *An online “suggestion box” will be developed for the general NU community*
- *The President will continue to provide progress updates and reports to the Board and other stakeholders regarding the changes that the Senate, Executive Team, and the University Management Group are planning to implement in conjunction with the strategic plan*

I conclude by identifying the President’s impressive achievements:

Over the past year and a half, under Dr. Lovett-Doust’s leadership, a broadly-based, inclusive university and community planning exercise led to the creation of the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan. Currently, action planning teams composed of faculty, students, staff and community members are developing action plans to guide implementation and achievement of the plan’s objectives. The Nipissing University Strategic Plan can be viewed at: <http://www.nipissingu.ca/AdvancingNipissing/>

Among other initiatives, President Lovett-Doust has:

- *Secured significant additional funds including a transformational gift of \$15 million that helped establish 100 student scholarships annually at \$6,000 each, and funding for academic initiatives in education, literacy and Aboriginal learning.*
- *Embarked on planning for a major fundraising campaign to raise funds for scholarships, new programs and additional state-of-the-art facilities in support of learning and faculty and student research.*
- *Supported the development of new, flexible and customized learning choices for students through The Nipissing Modular Curriculum.*
- *Developed and supported a greater focus and presence for Aboriginal learners resulting in increased enrolment, program expansion and provincial recognition for the retention programming offered at Nipissing University.*
- *Promoted plans for growth with the expansion of the Athletics Centre, creation of the Institute of Integrative Health Education and Research, the opening of the new Library and the addition of a new residence at the Muskoka campus.*
- *Supported the development of new graduate programs and research opportunities, including the redesign of the Office of Research Services and the establishment of the position of Associate Vice-President Academic and Research.*
- *Led development of a proposal to MTCU for initiatives to improve resources for First Generation students at Nipissing bringing \$457,000 over two years.*
- *Implemented a new Centre for Flexible Teaching and Learning that will be the source of new programming offered in flexible formats, through blended learning, onsite and online allowing the university to increase its reach to new university learners.*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of Senate for your attention.”

MOTION 1: Moved by T. Koivukoski, seconded by J. Abbott that the Board of Governors grant Senate the same courtesy shown to its representatives, and recognize representatives designated by Senate and hear their recommendations according to the will of Senate.
CARRIED

Senator Renshaw read the following statement and asked that it be recorded in the Senate minutes:

“As one of the three senators duly designated by Senate, I would like to offer the following report to Senate following up on the March 11 Senate motion to report results of the vote of non-confidence in the President to the Board of Governors and have it read into the record.

RE: *“MOTION 2: Moved by G. Phillips, seconded by C. McFarlane that the results of the motion of non-confidence be conveyed to the Board of Governors by Senators G. Phillips, S. Renshaw and F. Noël.”*

On March 15, the three designate Senators sent an informal e-mail to Peter Gavan, Chair of the Board asking to convey in person, the results of the vote of no confidence in the President to the Board. On March 14 they received an informal e-mail from Peter Gavan to say that the process the Board would follow would be the formal annual

evaluation of the President which was already under way. The Senators then sent a formal letter on March 15 to the Board Chair asking to have the matter put on the agenda of the next board meeting or an earlier meeting if possible, to convey the results. On 29 March, the day after the Board Executive meeting, the Senate delegates received a reply from the Board Chair indicating the executive had discussed the request and had determined that the course of action they favoured was to encourage Senators to use the "Annual Performance Appraisal of the President" to bring forward Senate's views around "governance of the academic side of the house". The e-mail did not directly address the critical issue of Senate's motion to convey specific information on the vote of no confidence, nor did it appear to acknowledge that the three delegate Senators had meet mandated by a senate motion to convey this information. On April 6, the day before the Board meeting, Senator Phillips and the Board Chair, Peter Gavan, had a phone conversation during which Senator Phillips, on behalf of Senate, again requested consideration at the Board meeting. This request was again refused. Senator Phillips indicated that the three designated Senators would still attend the Board meeting and issue a formal statement to him in his capacity as Board Chair which they requested be read to the Board in the closed session. Had this statement been read, the designate senators felt they would have discharged the otherwise quite narrow mandate with which they were charged by Senate. To the best of our knowledge this did not happen. The statement framed the conveyance of the information concerning the non confidence motion within the terms of Senate's statutory responsibilities under the University Act which makes it a duty of Senate to make recommendations to the Board of academic matters. On April 7, the three Senators attended the Board meeting and presented the statement and the count in writing to the Board Chair and left after the open meeting adjourned and prior to the in-camera session. On April 8, the three Senators charged only with conveying the information regarding the count and the motion itself received written invitation from Mr. Gavan to meet with the University President and himself, the Board Chair on April 11 at 1:00 p.m. – no agenda was provided. After deliberating over the appropriateness of attending given their narrow mandate, Senators Noël and Phillips attend the meeting (Senator Renshaw was out of town). The senators reiterated to the Chair and the President that they were not empowered to speak on behalf of all senators and this was not their role and nor was it their purpose in attending the Board meeting. Several questions were raised by both the President and the Board Chair about the processes surrounding and the content of the motion of non-confidence. The two senators suggested that most of these questions would be productively raised at senate since the three delegated senators were not able to speak on Senate's behalf."

Senator Renshaw asked if it would be in order to request that the results of the vote regarding the non-confidence motion from the March 2011 Senate meeting be released. The Speaker asked for a rationale for this request. Senator Renshaw responded by stating that every effort was made to fulfill the Senate motion by the senators designated with that responsibility and that these efforts were thwarted. Senator Renshaw added that she felt that it would be appropriate to make this information available to senators at this time.

Senator Nagy indicated that a motion had been unanimously carried at the Arts and Science Council to have the vote count released.

Senator Lovett-Doust noted that the request to have the votes made public should have been made at the time of the request. A question of privilege was raised by Senator Paine-Mantha that publishing the vote count could reflect poorly on the reputation of the university.

Senator Jowett, who has been Senate Speaker in the past, could not recall any rulings to have vote counts be released or not released. Senator Hatt, the current Senate Speaker, indicated he could not find any reference to this situation in Robert's Rules of Order.

MOTION 2: Moved by D. Jowett, seconded by N. Maynes that the vote count from the secret ballot of the March 11, 2011 Senate meeting be released.
DEFERRED

Senator Hatt requested that he have the opportunity to research this situation and bring the motion back to the May Senate meeting. Request granted by assent of Senate.

QUESTION PERIOD

Senator Abbott asked the President if anything can be learned from the last search process for a Vice-President Academic and Research. He expressed his concern about the numbers in vice-presidents academic and research. The President responded by noting that every time we go through a search process, we learn from it. She added that the VPAR interacts with multiple colleagues and she would like to see the candidates have a more robust informal interaction with the search committee, and interact with constituent groups of the university.

A question was raised as to where responsibility lies for the academic side of the library. On March 29, an announcement from the interim VPAR was sent out indicating that all issues related to the academic operations of the library will be handled through the VPAR office. Senator Rich explained that the library's academic side comes under the VPAR office. She added that the library will be one of the first units to be externally reviewed for IQAP.

MOTION 3: Moved by T. Koivukoski, seconded by D. Jowett that this matter be referred to the Library Advisory Subcommittee, with instructions to define what constitute the academic operations of the library.
CARRIED

Senator McFarlane expressed concerns over the number of first year exams in the first week of exams. He had concerns that this will impact overall academic performance, and therefore retention rates. Senator Rich acknowledged the senator's concerns and would discuss the issue with the Registrar.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Senate Executive Committee

MOTION 4: Moved by L. Lovett-Doust, seconded by C. McFarlane that the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated April 7, 2011 be received.
CARRIED

MOTION 5: Moved by L. Lovett-Doust, seconded by V. Paine Mantha that Senate move into an in-camera session.
CARRIED

MOTION 6: Moved by L. Lovett-Doust, seconded by D. Jowett that Senate move out of the in-camera session.
CARRIED

Undergraduate Studies Committee (February 24, 2011 Report)

MOTION 7: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by C. Cooper that the Report of the Undergraduate Studies Committee dated February 28, 2011, be received.
CARRIED

FACULTY OF APPLIED & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Social Welfare and Social Development

MOTION 8: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by C. Cooper that Senate approve the course description changes, as outlined for:

- SWLF2006 - Ideology and Social Welfare
- SWLF3116 – Health Care and Health Policy in Canada
- SWLF3916 – Selected Topics in Social Welfare & Social Development
- SWLF3917 - Selected Topics in Social Welfare & Social Development
- SWLF3926 - Selected Topics in Social Welfare & Social Development
- SWLF3927 - Selected Topics in Social Welfare & Social Development

CARRIED

MOTION 9: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by D. Jowett that Senate approve the prerequisite for SWLF2007 - Poverty and Social Policy in Canada to SWLF1005 and the course description be changed as outlined.

CARRIED

MOTION 10: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by C. McFarlane that Senate approve the deletion of the following courses as outlined:

- SWLF3255 - Social Development in Rural, Northern, and Aboriginal Communities
- SWLF3405 - Concepts of Wellness in First Nations' Communities
- SWLF3445 – Women and Social Welfare
- SWLF3505 – Social Change for Social Justice
- SWLF3805 – Abuse and Violence Within the Family
- SWLF3825 – Addictions
- SWLF3915 – Special Topics in Social Welfare and Social Development

CARRIED

MOTION 11: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by G. Brown that Senate approve the addition of the following courses as outlined:

- SWLF3406 - Colonialism in First Nations' Communities
- SWLF3407 - Social Development in First Nations' Communities
- SWLF3446 – Women and Social Welfare
- SWLF3506 – Social Change for Social Justice
- SWLF3806 - Family Violence
- SWLF3826 – Addictions

CARRIED

MOTION 12: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by D. Jowett that Senate approve that the prerequisite change for SWLF3006 – Social and Economic Justice as follows:
From: SWLF1005 and SWLF2105 or SWLF2006
To: SWLF1005
Remove “(formerly SWLF3106)” from the title.
CARRIED

MOTION 13: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by D. Jowett that Senate approve the prerequisite for SWLF3007 – History of Social Welfare be changed as follows:
From: SWLF1005 and SWLF2105 or SWLF2006
To: SWLF1005
Remove “(formerly SWLF 2606)” from the title.
CARRIED

MOTION 14: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by C. McFarlane that Senate approve the total hours for SWLF3995 – Community Service Learning for Social Development be changed to:
Three hours of lecture/practicum per week.
CARRIED

MOTION 15: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by S. Renshaw that Senate approve the course title for SWLF4005 – Honours Essay be modified to Research Essay and the prerequisite be modified to remove the word “Honours” from the first sentence and add the word “Major”, so that the prerequisite would read:

Restricted to students in the fourth year of the Social Welfare and Social Development Major Program.
CARRIED

FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCE

Gender Equality & Social Justice

MOTION 16: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by S. Renshaw that Senate approve the addition of the following courses as outlined:
• GEND2086 - Animal Rites
• GEND2155 – Selected Topics in Power and Inequality
• GEND2057 - Selected Topics in Human Rights and Social Justice
CARRIED

MOTION 17: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by S. Renshaw that Senate approve the name changes to the following courses as outlined:
• GEND3055 - Special Topics in Gender Studies to Selected Topics (Advanced) in Culture and Criticism
• GEND3056 – Selected Topics in Gender Relations
CARRIED

MOTION 18: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by S. Renshaw that That Senate approve that GEND3217 - International Human Rights be renumbered to GEND2187.
CARRIED

Undergraduate Studies Committee (March 24, 2011 Report)

FACULTY OF APPLIED & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Criminal Justice

MOTION 19: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by C. McFarlane that the Report of the Undergraduate Studies Committee dated March 24, 2011, be received.
CARRIED

MOTION 20: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by C. McFarlane that Senate approve the modification of the title CRJS3206 from Canadian Criminal Law and the Criminal Code to Canadian Criminal Law and Criminal Proceedings, a three credit course, and that the course description be modified as outlined.
CARRIED

MOTION 21: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by D. Jowett that Senate approve that the Legal Studies and Administration Stream be phased out with acceptance limited to transfers from Canadore College's Law Clerk program with no new admittance after December 2012.
CARRIED

FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCE

Anthropology

MOTION 22: Moved by R. Vanderlee seconded by C. Cooper that Senate approve that the following courses be cross-coded with Anthropology:

- SOCI2016 - Classical Theory
- SOCI2017 – Contemporary Theory
- SOCI3036 – Qualitative Methods

CARRIED

MOTION 23: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by G. Brown that Senate approve the prerequisite for SOCI2016 - Classical Theory, SOCI2017 - Contemporary Theory, SOCI3036 - Qualitative Methods, SOCI3057 – Demography: Introduction to Population Studies and SOCI3256 – Globalization and Development be changed to include SOCI1016 or ANTR1006, as outlined.
CARRIED

MOTION 24: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by G. Brown that Senate approve that the following courses be cross-listed for credit in Anthropology, as outlined:

- SOCI3057 - Demography: Introduction to Population Studies
- SOCI3256 - Globalization & Development
- NATI3005 – Native Religions and Spirituality

CARRIED

Philosophy

MOTION 25: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by D. Jowett that Senate approve the addition of PHIL2706 - Ethical Theory: Moral and Ethical Perspectives, as outlined.
CARRIED

MOTION 26: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by N. Colborne that Senate approve the modification of RLCT3046 – Religion and Science by replacing the prerequisite of RLCT1025 – Introduction to World Religions and Cultures with “Students must have completed 24 credits.”
CARRIED

Other

MOTION 27: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by S. Rich that Senate approve that the transition to the Common Degree Structure be delayed to Fall 2012 and thus introduced to students in July 2011 with full implementation by the Fall 2012.
CARRIED

MOTION 28: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by C. McFarlane that Senate approve that all program changes follow the process as outlined in the Senate Bylaws.
CARRIED

Graduate Studies Council

MOTION 29: Moved by C. Cooper, seconded by D. Jarvis that Senate approve the revised School of Graduate Studies Academic Regulations document as outlined in Appendix A.
CARRIED

MOTION 30: Moved by C. Cooper, seconded by C. McFarlane that Senate approve the revised School of Graduate Studies Governance document as outlined in Appendix B.
CARRIED

Teaching and Learning Committee

MOTION 31: Moved by R. Nagy, seconded by A. Burk that the Report of the Teaching and Learning Committee dated April 4, 2011 be received.
CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

There was a discussion concerning a request from the Pension and Benefits Committee for two senators to serve on it. Currently, the membership consists of two members from Senate. This composition predates the representative Senate. It was decided that the election for members will be from faculty at large and will be on the agenda for the May Senate meeting. Senate would like a report on an occasional basis. The following motion carried:

MOTION 32: Moved by D. Jowett, seconded by C. McFarlane that two faculty representatives, elected by Senate, will serve on the Pension and Benefits Committee for a 2-year term.
CARRIED

AMENDMENT of BY-LAWS

Notice of Motion (regarding name change for the Centre for Flexible Learning)

- That Article 9.5(a)(ii) and 9.5.3(b) be changed to: the Director for the Centre of Flexible Teaching and Learning.

Notice of Motion (regarding changes to reflect elections to Senate committees at the Faculty Councils)

- That Articles 9.1(b), 9.1.1(b), 9.1.2(b), 9.2(b), 9.2.1(b), 9.2.2(b), 9.3(b), 9.3.1(b), 9.3.2(b), 9.4(b), 9.5(b), 9.5.1(b), 9.5.2(b), and 9.5.3(b) be amended from: "Members elected by Senate" to "Members elected by Faculty Council"

Notice of Motion (regarding the opening of Senate committees/subcommittees to all faculty members)

- That the following Articles be changed as outlined:

Article 9.1.2 (b)(i) and (ii) (Honorary Degrees Subcommittee)

From: One (1) faculty Senator from each of two (2) Faculties;
One (1) faculty non-Senator from each remaining Faculty

To: One (1) faculty Senator or non-Senator from each Faculty

Article 9.2.1(b)(i) and (ii) (Admissions and Enrolment Subcommittee)

From: One (1) faculty Senator from each of two (2) Faculties, one of whom shall be elected by the Committee to serve as Vice-Chair; and
One (1) faculty non-Senator from each remaining Faculty

To: One (1) faculty Senator or non-Senator from each Faculty, one of whom shall be elected by the Committee to serve as Vice-Chair

Article 9.3.1(b)(i) and (ii) (Undergraduate Standing and Petitions Subcommittee)

From: One (1) faculty Senator from each of two (2) Faculties, one of whom shall be elected by the Committee to serve as Vice-Chair; and
One (1) faculty non-Senator from each remaining Faculty

To: One (1) faculty Senator or non-Senator from each Faculty, one of whom shall be elected by the Committee to serve as Vice-Chair

Article 9.3.2(b)(i) and (ii) (Undergraduate Service and Awards Subcommittee)

From: One (1) faculty Senator from each of two (2) Faculties, one of whom shall be elected by the Committee to serve as Vice-Chair; and
One (1) faculty non-Senator from each remaining Faculty

To: One (1) faculty Senator or non-Senator from each Faculty, one of whom shall be elected by the Committee to serve as Vice-Chair

Article 9.5(b)(i) and (ii) (Teaching and Learning Committee)

From: One (1) faculty Senator from each of two (2) Faculties, one of whom shall be elected by the Committee to serve as Chair and the other of whom shall serve as Vice-chair; and
One (1) faculty non-Senator from each remaining Faculty

To: One (1) faculty Senator or non-Senator from each Faculty, one of whom shall be elected by the Committee to serve as Chair and one to serve as Vice-Chair

Article 9.5.2(b)(i) and (ii) (Technology and Infrastructure Subcommittee)

From: One (1) faculty Senator from each of two (2) Faculties, one of whom shall be elected by the Committee to serve as Vice-Chair; and
One (1) faculty non-Senator from each remaining Faculty

To: One (1) faculty Senator or non-Senator from each Faculty, one of whom shall be elected by the Committee to serve as Vice-Chair

Article 9.5.3(b)(i) and (ii) (Continuing and Distance Education Subcommittee)

From: One (1) faculty Senator from each of two (2) Faculties, one of whom shall be elected by the Committee to serve as Vice-Chair; and
One (1) faculty non-Senator from each remaining Faculty

To: One (1) faculty Senator or non-Senator from each Faculty, one of whom shall be elected by the Committee to serve as Vice-Chair

Notice of Motion (regarding the addition of Article 8.4(g) (Committee/Subcommittee Reports))

- 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.”

ELECTIONS

- Senate to elect **four (4) faculty members** with at least one (1) female and one (1) male for the Search Committee for a Vice-President Academic and Research. Of those elected, only one (1) may be a probationary (tenure track) faculty member; and there shall be at least one (1) representative from each Faculty.

Acclaimed: G. Brophay, D. Jowett, D. Jarvis, J. Kovacs

A question was raised concerning the absence of any report from the Academic Planning Committee to support the requested positions as outlined. The Vice-President Academic and Research (interim) apologized to Senate noting that she had requested that the Deans provide a list of required positions. These requests were made as it would be difficult to run many of these programs without them. As a result, this issue needed to be addressed in a timely fashion. All positions are subject to budgetary approval.

- Elect one faculty Senator (tenure or tenure track) to serve on the search committee for a 3-year limited term position in Political Science. This position must be from outside the discipline.

Acclaimed: R. Gendron

- Elect one faculty Senator (tenure or tenure track) to serve on the search committee for a 3-year limited term position in Art History. This position must be from outside the discipline.

Acclaimed: T. Koivukoski

- Elect one faculty Senator (tenure or tenure track) to serve on the search committee for a 2-year limited term position in Digital Humanities (Department of English Studies). This position must be from outside the discipline.

Acclaimed: M. Wachowiak

- Elect one faculty Senator (tenure or tenure track) to serve on the search committee for a 2-year limited term position in Gender Equality and Social Justice. This position must be from outside the discipline.

Acclaimed: N. Kozuskanich

- Elect one faculty Senator (tenure or tenure track) to serve on the search committee for a 3-year limited term position in Canadian History. This position must be from outside the discipline.

Acclaimed: C. McFarlane

- Elect one faculty Senator (tenure or tenure track) to serve on the search committee for a 3-year limited term position in Culture and the Arts (Muskoka Campus). This position must be from outside the discipline.

Acclaimed: A. Wagner

- Elect one faculty Senator (tenure or tenure track) to serve on the search committee for a 3-year limited term position in Social Welfare and Social Development. This position must be from outside the discipline.

Acclaimed: F. Noël

- Elect one faculty Senator (tenure or tenure track) to serve on the search committee for a tenure track position in Child and Family Studies. This position must be from outside the discipline.

Acclaimed: A. Weeks

- Elect one faculty Senator (tenure or tenure track) to serve on the search committee for a Director for the School of Nursing. This position must be from outside the discipline.

Acclaimed: B. Carpenter

- Elect one faculty Senator (tenure or tenure tract) to serve on the search committee for a tenure track position in Accounting. This position must be from outside the discipline.

Acclaimed: D. Jarvis

REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

Board of Governors

Ms. Lois Henderson-Campbell gave a report summarizing discussions from the Board's April meeting. The Board was informed about Nipissing's participation at the recent Aboriginal Postsecondary Education gathering in early March. She also explained that the University executive had recently met with community college officials. The President advised the Board that there was division among the colleges with respect to their continuing mandates. Some of the colleges were focused on 2- and 3-year diploma programming, and others would like to become polytechnics offering more degrees. The Board elected Colin Dennis as the Board representative to the VPAR search committee. The Board was also advised that there will be a fall convocation on November 4. The Office of External Relations and Advancement provided board members with a demonstration of the new website.

Teacher Education Advisory Committee

Senator McAuliffe was asked at the last Senate meeting to provide a status report on the above committee. He announced that the last time the group met was November 2009. There will be a meeting in September 2011 and the committee will be reconstituted at that time.

Alumni Advisory Board

Senator Thompson was pleased to report that the Chancellor attended their breakfast meeting on April 8. He noted that there was an open and creative discussion about where to take the Alumni board. Senator Thompson was left with the impression that Nipissing's Alumni Board is comparable to other alumni boards.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The President began her message by announcing that the Office of External Relations and Advancement will be visiting various departments to gather creative ideas about their priority requests for the upcoming Capital Campaign, Advancing Nipissing. Examples might include major items over \$1M, endowed chairs, endowed scholarships, etc. An update from the Council of Ontario Universities provided a reaction to the recent provincial budget. The current government will sustain post secondary education with 60,000 extra spaces. The challenge for Nipissing will be that most of these spaces are envisioned as being in the GTA. She noted that the good news is that full funding will be stable and sustained. However, the province will not be approving any major capital plans in the near future.

Senator Lovett-Doust recently returned from the AUCC meeting in Victoria and outlined a number of issues that were raised. She noted that AUCC is launching an initiative to assist universities in putting together a rationale to the general public as to why Canadians should invest in their universities. There was also a poignant presentation from Daniel Woolf, Principal of Queen's discussion regarding mental health issues on campus. Queen's has lost six students this year.

The President commented on a number of recent events including the Dave Marshall Leadership Awards, the athletics banquet and the Kennedy Gallery's reception for the Bachelor of Fine Arts students.

The Vice-President Academic and Research (interim) was pleased to report on another successful undergraduate conference. She noted that this event attracted students from Laurentian and Trent. She also announced that the doctoral reviewers recently visited the campus and the initial feedback was positive. The reviewers for the Master of Science will be on campus in May.

Senator Rich was pleased to announce to Senate that Drs. Mark Wachowiak and Tzvetalin Vassilev each received a NSERC Discovery Grant worth \$14K per year for the next five years. Additionally, Senator Kozuskanich has received a 3-year SSHRC standard grant totaling \$54,904 and Dr. Callie Mady is also the recipient of a 3-year SSHRC standard grant totaling \$81,440.

Senator Paine-Mantha reminded senators that they must submit their 2010-11 expenditures before the end of April 30. She announced that under the Public Accountability Act, expense reports for per diems will now require original receipts for the amount spent. This will be effective May 1.

The Senator reported that as of this date, there is a \$2.3M gap between revenue and expenditures. Administration is working hard to decrease this gap before the budget is presented to the Board of Governors.

The Dean of Applied and Professional Studies was pleased to report that the winner of the grand prize in the Common Book/Common Ground contest was Viviane Schadenburg. He was also pleased to announce that year 2 nursing students Shannon Tuck and Jordanne Doucette took such exceptional care of a woman that her family donated \$2500 towards nursing bursaries.

The Dean of Arts and Science extended his thanks to all faculty members who applied for grants but were not successful. He commented on the amount of work that goes in to a proposal. He also reported that Drs. April James and Dan Walters, in partnership with Dokis First Nation, are the recipients of Health Canada funding for a source water protection study in the community.

NUSU president, Senator Lahti advised senators that at the recent referendum vote, an overwhelming majority of students were in favour for the monies that were collected to fund the student centre upgrades and expansion be given to the Student Union for these projects to proceed. Senator Lahti reported that \$600 was raised for Japan relief and \$1100 for Free the Children with recent student union initiatives.

Incoming NUSU president, Ms. Jordan Doucette introduced the new student union executive. Nicole Brady will be Vice-President External, Tyler Budd Vice-President Internal and Michelle Redman, Vice-President, Student Life.

Senate was adjourned: 5:35 p.m.

.....
L. Lovett-Doust, President

.....
C. Jenkins, Senate Secretary