

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING

January 17, 2014

2:30 p.m. – Room F210

MEMBERS PRESENT:

M. DeGagné (Chair), H. d'Entremont, A-B Graff, C. Richardson, R. Vanderlee,
A. Robinson, M. Tuncali, L. Carter

A. Armenakyan, J. Barker, G. Brown, A. Page

A. Ackerman, D. Borman, A. Burk, N. Colborne, J. Dech, M. Jha, U. Kundrats, F. Noël,
T. Parkes, T. Smith, D. Tabachnick, A. Weeks, H. Zhu

L. Ashworth, B. Bruner, K. Eyre, B. Hatt (Speaker), J. McAuliffe, M-A Parr, T. Ryan,
A. Steele

R. Vernescu (Bracebridge)

C. Hachkowski

C. Murton-Stoehr, L. Rossi

J. Zimbalatti

S. Feretycki

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

N. Black

R. Breton, S. Winters

G. Black, T. Horton, M. Kariuki, J. Scott, T. Sibbald

M. McCabe (Brantford)

G. DuCharme

Y. Benoit, K. Fitzsimmons, C. Grist, L. McKeon, C. Nosko, J. Trottier

The minutes of the Senate meeting of December 13, 2013 were adopted.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Vice-President Academic and Research responded to a question raised at the December 2013 Senate meeting regarding the focus of information on the university website. In particular there was a concern about the apparent lack of academic control over portions of the website. Senator d'Entremont indicated the website is increasing its focus on attracting students. The advancement office is in the process of developing an intranet site for internal purposes.

There was a follow up question resulting from this response as to whether there was a senate committee or subcommittee that oversees the academic content on the website. It was eventually agreed that Senate recommend to the Bylaws and Elections subcommittee that they ascertain if there was a senate body that has this as part of their mandate and to report back at the February 14, 2014 Senate meeting.

QUESTION PERIOD

A question was brought forward asking if meetings of the steering committee for the program prioritization process would be open to anyone. Senator d'Entremont responded by saying that members of the Planning and Priorities Committee would be fulfilling the duties of the steering committees. He added that there will be a role for all faculty members on future committees to assist in other areas of this process.

REPORTS of STANDING COMMITTEES and FACULTY or UNIVERSITY COUNCILS

Senate Executive Committee

MOTION 1: Moved by M. DeGagné, seconded by AB Graff that the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated January 9, 2014 be received.

CARRIED

Planning and Priorities Committee

MOTION 2: Moved by H. d'Entremont, seconded by AB Graff that the Report of the Planning and Priorities Committee dated December 13, 2013, be received.

CARRIED

MOTION 3: Moved by H. d'Entremont, seconded by K. Eyre that Senate grant approval of a Stage 2 Major modification for the Bachelor of Education, Consecutive and Concurrent, as outlined in the attached document.

CARRIED

MOTION 4: Moved by H. d'Entremont, seconded by S. Feretycki that Senate grant Stage 1 Letter of Intent for a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) Program, as outlined in the attached document.

CARRIED

Undergraduate Studies Committee

October 25, 2013 Report

MOTION 5: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by AB Graff that the Report of the Undergraduate Studies Committee dated December 11, 2013, be received.

CARRIED

MOTION 6: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by A. Burk that Senate approve the ABQ admission policy as outlined.

CARRIED

Research Council

MOTION 7: Moved by M. Tuncali, seconded by T. Smith that the Report of the Research Council dated December 16, 2013, be received.

CARRIED

MOTION 8: Moved by M. Tuncali, seconded by AB Graff that the new Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research nomination process be approved as outlined in the attached document.

CARRIED

AMENDMENT of BY-LAWS

MOTION 9: Moved by A. Burk, seconded by A. Robinson that Article 9.2(a) of the Senate bylaws be amended with the addition of the Assistant Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies (voting) and the Assistant Vice-President, Institutional Planning and Quality Assurance (non-voting) to the Planning and Priorities Committee.

CARRIED

MOTION 10: Moved by A. Burk, seconded by H. d'Entremont that Article 9.2.(b)(i) and Article 9.2.(b)(ii) of the Senate bylaws be amended as follows:

- (i) four (4) tenured or tenured track faculty Senators* with at least one from each Faculty, one of whom shall be elected by the Committee to serve as Vice-Chair;
- (ii) four (4) tenured or tenured track faculty non-senators with at least one from each Faculty;
* minimum two (2) years previous Nipissing University experience required; 50% tenured faculty preferred

CARRIED

MOTION 11: Moved by A. Burk, seconded by AB Graff that Article 4.3 Annual Election Procedures for Representatives Allocated to Each Faculty be amended as follows:

4.3 Annual Election Procedures for Senate Representatives Allocated to Each Faculty

- (a) By 10 January each year, the By-Laws & Elections Subcommittee shall announce the list of Senate seats available in each Faculty to be filled in the next Senate election cycle, and indicate the term of office for each position.
- (b) By 17 January each year, the Deans shall invite nominations for all Senate seats available to be filled within their respective constituencies, and shall provide a list of all constituency members currently eligible to serve and/or to vote in the election. (Any faculty member holding a cross-appointment between two Faculties will declare a primary Faculty for election purposes to the appropriate Dean, and shall be eligible to serve and/or to vote only in that Faculty.)
- (c) Nominations shall be submitted in writing to the Dean, signed by the nominee and two eligible voters, not later than 31 January each year.
- (d) In the first week after the nomination period, each Faculty Council shall meet. The Deans will present the list of nominees, seek out new nominees if there has not been enough nominations (via

a nominator and a seconder from the floor), to discuss the election procedures and to elect two scrutineers. After this meeting of Faculty Council the final list of nominees and election procedures will be distributed by the Deans to all members of the respective faculty.

- (e) Unless all seats have been filled by acclamation and no later than the second week of February, the Deans shall announce the start of the election period. Elections for each Faculty shall normally be completed by no later than 28 February each year.
- (f) Voting shall take place Monday – Friday during 8:30am – 4:30pm in the respective Dean’s Office. Voting shall be by secret ballot. Candidates shall be listed on the ballot in alphabetical order. Eligible voters may vote for as many candidates as there are seats on the ballot. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted. Each voter shall receive one ballot, to be filled out in private and returned to the ballot box which will be monitored by the Dean’s Office.
- (g) At the close of voting in each Faculty, the ballots shall be counted and verified by two faculty scrutineers, elected by the respective Faculty Councils, who are eligible to vote in the constituency but who are not standing for Senate election.
- (h) The Deans shall notify their Faculties of the results within three days of the close of voting, and shall normally report their final slates of Faculty representatives to the By-Laws & Elections Subcommittee by no later than 01 March each year.

CARRIED

MOTION 12: Moved by A. Burk, seconded by C. Hachkowski that Article 10.1.2 Faculty Nominations and Elections Subcommittee be amended as follows:

10.1.2 Faculty Council Nominations and Election Subcommittee Procedures

- (a) The Nominations and Elections Subcommittee is charged with soliciting nominations from their respective faculty and preparing a recommended slate of nominations for Senate committees and Board representatives to present to Faculty Council.
- (b) Membership will include *a* Faculty representative on the Bylaws and Elections Subcommittee who shall be Chair; two other faculty representatives; and the Dean of the Faculty.
- (c) The subcommittee will solicit nominations for Senate committees and Board representatives through the distribution of a nomination form that lists first, second, and third choice/preference beginning 02 March, to be returned to the subcommittee Chair no later than 17 March.
- (d) Where possible, the proposed slate of committee/board members will reflect continuity of membership as well as consideration involving new faculty members in the work of Senate committees and the Board of Governors.
- (e) All results will be reported to the Bylaws and Elections Subcommittee by 25 April.

CARRIED

MOTION 13: Moved by N. Colborne, seconded by G. McCann that Senate empower the Bylaws and Elections subcommittee to select two faculty as set out in the amended bylaws to the Planning and Priorities Committee.

CARRIED

Non-substantive changes to the Senate Bylaws

- Add the line to Article 3.3 Speaker of Senate: *act as Chair of the Bylaws and Elections Subcommittee;*
- Add the line to Article 3.4 Deputy Speaker of Senate: *act as Vice-Chair of the Bylaws and Elections Subcommittee*
- Change to Article 7.7 Unprovided Cases – will be changes from *Parliamentary Procedures at a Glance* by O. Garfield Jones to *Robert’s Rules of Order*

ELECTIONS

- Elect two senators to fill the vacancies in the limited-term representative positions to Senate until June 30, 2014. Vacancies will be filled in turn by the Faculty of Arts and Science, then the Schulich School of Education and then the Faculty of Applied and Professional Studies.

Acclaimed from Education – T. Benevides

- Elect two representatives, one from the Schulich School of Education and one from the Faculty of Applied and Professional Studies, to serve on the selection committees for the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Nipissing University Award for CASBU Members. Each representative will serve on both committees.

Acclaimed for Education – D. Brackenreed

REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES**Board of Governors**

Senator Zimbalatti from the Board of Governors advised senators that their next meeting is Thursday, February 6, 2014. She added that a number of the Board committees will be meeting prior to this date.

Council of Ontario Universities

Senator McCann, COU Academic Colleague provided a report from COU meetings held on December 12 & 13, 2013. She indicated that academic colleagues were concerned about the prioritization process and the perceived signalling of government control over universities and whether this was an attempt to sidestep university senates and faculty collective agreements.

The focus of the meetings was prioritization and Peter Gooch, Senior Director of Policy and Analysis at COU provided a full report. He indicated he had been in contact with MTCU and noted that the review is very political and is being used to demonstrate the provincial government has proper oversight over the public sector. The provincial deficit is presenting a challenge.

Senator McCann also noted that COU also discussed on-line initiatives being proposed by the government. The government recently announced that it was investing \$42M to establish a centre that aims to drive on-line learning opportunities for postsecondary students across the province. There is some concern that the committee overseeing the hub implementation has no faculty representation. Use of the hub will be voluntary.

COU will continue to lobby the government and ensure that the views of faculty are part of the public conversation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The President welcomed senators back for the winter term. He provided an update of the strategic plan and indicated that it will be disseminated to everyone via the university management group. The strategic plan will be short and succinct and be available for prospective students and their parents. He stressed that feedback will be welcome.

March Open House will be here soon, and the President reminded faculty that they are a critical piece in our efforts to attract students. Recruitment is essential and the drop in the number of registrants experienced this year cannot continue.

At the request of the President, Senator Carter from CFTL provided an update on online and blended registration numbers. She was pleased to report that registration increased 36% over 2012. This translates into 85 courses for 2113 students. Unique registrants have increased 43%.

Senator Robinson, Registrar also gave a brief report on applications to date. She indicated that offers to the Schulich School of Education will be sent out on April 1, 2014, the same day as the rest of the Ontario system. There is a modest increase in 101 applications and it will be critical for faculty to get involved with a telephone campaign, especially with applicants who listed Nipissing as their second choice. This category saw a significant increase. Non-high school applicants continue to apply and will do so until September. Senator Robinson noted that the applications from local high school students are increasing. Offers of admission to undergraduate programs are going out daily while graduate studies offers will begin in February.

ADJOURNMENT

Senate was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

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M. DeGagné (Chair)

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C. Jenkins (Senate Secretary)