

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING

May 15, 2015

2:30 p.m. – Room F210

MEMBERS PRESENT:

M. DeGagné (Chair), H. d'Entremont, M. Tuncali, J. Graham, N. Black

J. Barker, G. Brown, M. Litalien, K. McCullough

A. Ackerman, S. Arnocky, D. Borman, R. Breton, N. Colborne, J. Dech, R. Gendron,  
N. Kozuskanich, G. McCann, F. Noël, P. Nosko, S. Renshaw, M. Saari, T. Vassilev,  
D. Walters, H. Zhu

L. Ashworth, B. Bruner, S. Elliott-Johns, D. Hay, T. Horton, D. Jarvis, T. Sibbald,  
A. Steele

A. Grierson (Brantford), R. Vernescu (Muskoka)

C. Hachkowski

J. Zimbalatti

S. Feretycki

J. Andrews, I. Hall

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

S. Rich, C. Richardson, R. Vanderlee

A. Armenakyan,

M. Owens, G. Phillips, S. Srigley

M-A Parr J. Scott

O. Pokorny, L. Rossi

T. Palangio

M. Byblow, A. Deugo

The minutes of the Senate meeting of April 10, 2015 were adopted.

READING and DISPOSING OF COMMUNICATIONS

The Senate Speaker acknowledged receipt of a document prepared by Drs. Gillian McCann and Larry Patriquin concerning the future of the Native Studies program at Nipissing University. The Speaker advised Senators that questions regarding the document would be heard during Question Period.

QUESTION PERIOD

There were three motions brought to the floor by Senator Andrews of NUSU. These pertained to the protection of academic amnesty for registered students in the event of a labour dispute. The following motions were passed:

MOTION 1: Moved by J. Andrews, seconded by M. Saari that Nipissing University Senate respect the right, outlined in the “Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities,” “that those who wish to teach and those who wish to learn can do so under proper conditions” by extending academic amnesty to all registered Nipissing University students who are made late to one or more classes, examinations, tests, assignment deadlines, laboratory exercises, or other compulsory academic events as a result of delays incurred by actions related to a labour dispute on campus between Nipissing University and a union on campus, such as the formation of a legally recognized picket line.  
CARRIED

MOTION 2: Moved by J. Andrews, seconded by R. Breton that Nipissing University Senate respect the right, outlined in the “Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities,” “that those who wish to teach and those who wish to learn can do so under proper conditions” by extending academic amnesty to any registered Nipissing University student who conscientiously chooses not to cross a legally recognized picket line in the event of a labour dispute between Nipissing University and a union on campus. This amnesty should be extended to all registered Nipissing University students who miss one or more classes, examinations, tests, assignment deadlines, laboratory exercises, or other compulsory academic events because of their status as a conscientious objector.  
CARRIED

MOTION 3: Moved by J. Andrews, seconded by M. Saari that Nipissing University Senate recommends to the Nipissing University Board of Governors that measures of academic amnesty passed by the Senate be supported by the Board of Governors’ own measures.  
CARRIED

Dr. Tabachnick, who was recognized as a guest, raised a number of questions related to the Nipissing University Act. He expressed concerns that in his opinion in several circumstances, the Board of Governor’s bylaws do not conform to the Act. He was also of the view that with respect of the duties of the Senate as outlined in Article 22(i) of the Nipissing University Act, that this duty did not receive the same standing as the President’s duty to recommend “Vice-Presidents and other officers” of Senate.

The President advised that any concerns regarding the Board bylaws should be sent to the Chair of the University Governance Committee as the Board was currently undertaking a complete review of its bylaws. He indicated that he and Dr. Tabachnick have been having ongoing discussions. He added that the wording of the Act needs to be parsed out as “may” does not mean the same thing as “shall.” Dr. Tabachnick advised senators that the Act and university bylaws should coincide and it would make good sense to review this in light of the upcoming Senate reform. He added that Senate should expect a report in the fall. He also suggested that senators review the hiring practices of VPs and other officers at Wilfrid Laurier so as to understand how Article 24.3 of the NU Act could be interpreted. It was his opinion that PPC and other Senate bodies should be able to make recommendation to the Board about the allocation of resources in the same way the President makes recommendation about the appointments of VPS and other officers.

At the request of the Senate Speaker, the discussion was suspended until information comes from the Bylaws and Elections Subcommittee in the Fall.

In reference to the document regarding the future of Native Studies at Nipissing, Senator McCann asked for clarification as to whether the next hire in that program would be in 2016 and to address the rumour it would be a cross-appointment. The Provost indicated that a recommendation was made that two hires be made in Native Studies. He also added that the President would like to see Aboriginal faculty throughout all programs. The interim Dean of Arts and Science added that a committee consisting of Dan Walters, Rosemary Nagy, Tanya Lukin-Linklater and Terry Dokis are presently working on a job description for the new hire.

There was a follow-up question regarding the cut to the Aboriginal Student Transition position and if there are any future plans to fill the position. The President advised that position was re-allocated and some of its functions will be carried out by other positions.

A question was raised about the status of the Chair of Indigenous/Aboriginal Education and Senators were advised that the search is still active with resumes received in the first round. If no suitable candidate is found, the search will be extended.

In response to the question as to whether the final HESA report will be received at Senate, the Provost advised that the report will be sent out to the membership of the steering committee, PPC and administration.

It was noted that the report from the Quality Assurance Council will be available soon. There was a question asking if it will be brought forward to Senate. The Provost replied that the report will go to PPC and eventually Senate. It will also be posted on the website. His office will be drafting a response.

Responding to the question about the timing of the publishing of the draft timetable, Stephen Tedesco (Associate Registrar, Scheduling and Records) noted that the first draft was shared with the Deans on May 1 with final changes due May 9. The draft was shared with the Chairs and Faculty on May 14 with the final change deadline being May 25. Registration will open June 2, 2015. An apology was extended for the lateness. A concern was raised about the number of classes that have been scheduled on Senate dates. Mr. Tedesco responded that if a senator's timetable needed to be adjusted, to contact him.

A concern was raised about what research resources will be available over the summer with regards to the preparation and writing of grant applications and who will be sending out the SSHRC and NSERC information. This question was in light of the recent elimination of the OPSEU position. The Provost noted that this department is being reorganized and further information will be available on May 29.

There was a question asking if the University is aware of websites such as *Course Hero* and *One Class*, which allow students to post notes taken in class, or handouts distributed in a class, and put them online for other students to use. Notes taken from classes of Nipissing faculty are on the site. The companies that are commercializing intellectual material state that they will remove that material if requested to do so. The Provost indicate he is aware of the websites and it has been discussed at OCAV.

#### REPORTS of STANDING COMMITTEES and FACULTY or UNIVERSITY COUNCILS

#### SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MOTION 4: Moved by M. DeGagné, seconded by N. Colborne that the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated May 7, 2015 be received.  
CARRIED

**PLANNING and PRIORITIES COMMITTEE**

MOTION 5: Moved by H. d'Entremont, seconded by M. Saari that the Report of the Planning and Priorities Committee dated April 24, 2015 be received.

CARRIED

MOTION 6: Moved by H. d'Entremont, seconded by M. Saari that Senate grant approval of a Stage 1 Letter of Intent Major Modification for a BA Honours Specialization and BA Specialization in Psychology at the Muskoka Campus, as attached.

CARRIED

MOTION 7: Moved by H. d'Entremont, seconded by M. Saari that Senate grant approval of a Stage 1 Letter of Intent for a BA & BSc Honours Specialization and Specialization in Mathematical Economics, as attached.

CARRIED

**GRADUATE STUDIES COUNCIL**

MOTION 8: Moved by M. Tuncali, seconded by D. Borman that the Report of the Graduate Studies Council, dated April 20, 2015, be received.

CARRIED

MOTION 9: Moved by M. Tuncali, seconded by D. Borman that Senate approve that the following graduate courses in Education be banked:

- EDUC5526 Leadership in Action Research
- EDUC5446 Literature Based Instruction in Language
- EDUC5656 Models/Methods for Program Development with Gifted Learners
- EDUC5647 The Gifted Learner

CARRIED

MOTION 10: Moved by M. Tuncali, seconded by S. Elliott-Johns that Senate approve the revision of course EDUC5426 as outlined in the attached document.

CARRIED

MOTION 11: Moved by M. Tuncali, seconded by G. McCann that Senate approve the Grad Faculty Supervision Agreement as outlined in the attached document.

MOTION 12: Moved by T. Horton, seconded by R. Gendron that Motion 4 of the Graduate Studies Council report dated April 20, 2015 be referred back to GSC to:

- clarify if this is a set of guidelines or a contract;
- if guidelines, why is a signature needed; and
- if a contract, explain the implications for violation of the contract by student or supervisor and who decides

CARRIED

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The President presented his Annual Tenure and Promotion Report and noted that all four applicants awarded promotion to Professor were female.

ELECTIONS

- Elect one Senator to serve on the Chancellor's Selection Committee  
**ACCLAIMED – Matti Saari**
- Elect one Senator to serve on the Board of Governors for a 2-year term commencing July 1, 2015  
**ACCLAIMED – Robin Gendron**
- Elect one non-Senator to serve on the Board of Governors for a 2-year term commencing July 1, 2015  
**ACCLAIMED – Hilary Earl**  
(subsequent to this election, Dr. Earl has indicated she does not wish to accept this position)

MOTION 13: Moved by N. Colborne, seconded by D. Borman that the slate of new candidates for Faculty of Arts and Science Senators be approved as follows:

- Steven Arnocky
- Amir Erfani
- Alex Karassev
- Peter Nosko
- Tony Parkes
- Sal Renshaw

CARRIED

MOTION 14: Moved by N. Colborne, seconded by G. Brown that the slate of new candidates for Faculty of Applied and Professional Studies senators be approved as follows:

- Roxana Vernescu

CARRIED

MOTION 15: Moved by N. Colborne, seconded by M. Tuncali that the slate of new candidates for the Schulich School of Education Senators be approved as follows:

- Susan Elliott-Johns
- Lorraine Frost
- Ryan Graham
- Todd Horton

CARRIED

- Elect one Senator to serve as Speaker of Senate for a two-year term effective July 1, 2015  
**ELECTED – Sal Renshaw**
- Elect one Senator to serve as Deputy Speaker of Senate for a two-year term effective July 1, 2015  
**ACCLAIMED – Nathan Colborne**

REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIESBoard of Governors

Senator Zimbalatti provided a report from the Board of Governors. She advised that there had been a regular meeting of the Board of Governors on Thursday, May 7, 2015. Board members were introduced to the incoming NUSU Executive members. Reappointed Board members are: Gord Durnan; Colleen Miller; Jim Evans; and Janet Zimbalatti. The results of the elections for Board Officers are: Marianne Berubé acclaimed as Chair; Gord Durnan acclaimed as Vice-Chair; and Tom Palangio acclaimed as Vice-Chair Pro-Tem.

There was a presentation from the men's and women's varsity basketball coaches, Chris Cheng and Marg Jones. The coaches provided an overview of the 2014-15 Laker's Basketball season. Both coaches stressed that part of their mandate was to recruit new student athletes. They outlined the community initiatives in which the student athletes are involved. The President thanked the coaches for their commitment and added that varsity sports are an important part of the university experience.

Ms. Berubé provided some reflections on her attendance at the recent Canadian University Boards' Association (CUBA) meeting in Montréal. She learned that all universities across the country are facing challenging times.

The President advised that at the recent COU meeting, there was discussion on the upcoming funding formula review. The process and policy rationale for the review was discussed. The full \$3.5B in operating grants is within the scope of the review resulting in a realignment of what currently exists.

Resolutions were approved for: an increase to the available credit limit with the Toronto Dominion Bank Operating Loan from \$1,000,000 to \$5,000,000; an increase in the Nipissing University Ancillary Fees and Student Ancillary fees; and a domestic tuition rate increase of 3%; four members were opposed. Revisions to the Terms of Reference for the Research Ethics Board were also approved.

The Board ratified the appointment of Dr. Pavlina Radia as Associate Dean of the Faculty of Education and Dr. Barb Olmsted as Associate Dean of the Schulich School of Education.

#### Council of Ontario University (Academic Colleague)

Senator McCann provided a report from the April 9, 2015 joint meeting of Executive Heads and Colleagues held at Wilfrid Laurier University. The focus was on the topics of internationalization and the state of the Humanities. Faculty and Presidents were in agreement regarding handling internationalization with caution. All agreed that the definition of internationalization had to be broader than just seeing foreign students as a source of revenue. There is also a need to be realistic about having support services in place for students coming from abroad. International students are a vital part of most graduate programmes and faculty often participate in international research so this needs to be understood as an intrinsic part of what a university does.

The discussion on the state of the Humanities was also characterized by agreement. All present noted that the public discourse around the humanities has little to nothing to do with the actual reality. Numerous surveys by COU have shown students with BA find work and that no "skills gap" exists. It was noted that the anxiety of parents seems to drive this narrative. Perhaps because a number of the university presidents come from the humanities themselves they were already being proactive about highlighting the research of the humanities scholars alongside of those in the sciences. The president of the University of Toronto stated that he is always careful to talk about programmes like Medieval Studies alongside foregrounding quantitative research.

After this meeting the academic colleague attended a panel put on by students talking about the experiences of being an Aboriginal student in a university setting. The need for mentorship and encouragement was highlighted and as well as institutional support such as our Aboriginal Initiatives.

**NEW BUSINESS****• Grad Applicants**

- MOTION 16: Moved by J. Graham, seconded by I. Hall that Senate consider receipt of the Report on Grad Applicants dated May 15, 2015.  
CARRIED
- MOTION 17: Moved by J. Graham, seconded by I. Hall that Senate receive the Report of Grad Applicants dated May 15, 2015.  
CARRIED
- MOTION 18: Moved by J. Graham, seconded by I. Hall that Senate grant approval to graduates listed in the Report of Grad Applicants dated May 15, 2015, as all have completed the requirements for their respective degrees, diplomas and certificates.  
CARRIED

**• USC Report – May 8, 2015**

- MOTION 19: Moved by M. Tuncali, seconded by M. Saari that Senate consider receipt of the Undergraduate Studies Committee Report, dated May 8, 2015.  
CARRIED
- MOTION 20: Moved by M. Tuncali, seconded by M. Saari that Senate receive the Report of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, dated May 8, 2015.  
CARRIED

**Business**

- MOTION 21: Moved by M. Tuncali, seconded by N. Colborne that Senate approve the changes to the course descriptions for MKTG2127 and ORGS2117 as outlined in the attached document.  
CARRIED
- MOTION 22: Moved by M. Tuncali, seconded by K. Chutko that Senate approve the advanced standing policy for Certified Aboriginal Financial Manager (CAFM) diploma graduates from AFOA Canada as outlined.  
CARRIED

**Social Welfare and Social Development**

- MOTION 23: Moved by M. Tuncali, seconded by N. Colborne that Senate grant approval to establish a collaborative program for an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Welfare & Social Development at Nipissing University and a Social Service Worker diploma at Canadore College, as outlined in the attached document.  
CARRIED
- MOTION 24: Moved by M. Tuncali, seconded by A. Ackerman that Senate approve the advanced standing policy for Social Service Worker (SSW) diploma graduates as outlined in the attached document.  
CARRIED

**Social Work**

- MOTION 25: Moved by M. Tuncali, seconded by G. Brown that Senate approve the addition of SWRK1006, Foundations of Social Work to the Applied & Professional Studies curriculum.  
CARRIED
- MOTION 26: Moved by M. Tuncali, seconded by G. Brown that Senate approve the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program curriculum for years 1 and 2, as outlined in the attachment.  
CARRIED
- MOTION 27: Moved by M. Tuncali, seconded by G. Brown that Senate approve the advanced standing policy for Social Service Worker (SSW), Developmental Service Worker (DSW) and Child and Youth Worker (CYW) diploma graduates in the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW).  
CARRIED

**Science and Technology**

- MOTION 28: Moved by M. Tuncali, seconded by M. Saari that Senate approve that students transferring from the BSc Honours Specialization in Science & Technology (Robotics stream) to the BSc Specialization in Science & Technology (Robotics stream) be able to retain their 60 transfer credits and not be reduced to 30 transfer credits.  
CARRIED

**Schulich School of Education**

- MOTION 29: Moved by M. Tuncali, seconded by C. Hachkowski that Senate approve the following two-year Concurrent entry and Consecutive Bachelor of Education progression requirements.
1. The Bachelor of Education program (Consecutive, and years 5 and 6 of the Concurrent entry) is offered as a two-year fulltime program and cannot be completed on a part-time basis.
  2. Students are not permitted to withdraw from Bachelor of Education courses.
  3.
    - a. In order to progress to Year 2 and Year 6, students must achieve an average of 70% overall, with no course mark lower than 60%.
    - b. In order to graduate, students must achieve an average of 70% overall, with no course mark lower than 60%.
  4. Students are permitted to fail one course in the Consecutive Bachelor of Education program (excepting Practicum I and Practicum II).
    - a. Separate course offerings will not be available until the following academic year.
    - b. If the second attempt at the failed course is unsuccessful, the student will be required to withdraw.
    - c. Students who withdraw or who are required to withdraw from the program will not retain credit for passed courses.
  5. Students who are required to withdraw will not be considered for readmission until they have been out of the program for one year.
  6. Students must pass EDUC4714 (Practicum 1) to progress to Year 2 (Consecutive) and Year 6 (Concurrent).
- CARRIED



- MOTION 30: Moved by M. Tuncali, seconded by C. Hachkowski that Senate approve the addition of the following degree requirement to the Consecutive Bachelor of Education Program: "Complete the program within four (4) years of the original date of admission".  
CARRIED
- MOTION 31: Moved by M. Tuncali, seconded by C. Hachkowski Senate approve the addition of the following degree requirement to the Concurrent Bachelor of Education Program: "Complete the program within four (4) years of entry into Year 5".  
CARRIED
- MOTION 32: Moved by M. Tuncali, seconded by C. Hachkowski Senate approve that the credit count for EDUC4855 Practicum II be reduced from 6 credits to 5 credits to allow for the addition of the 1-credit Community Leadership Experience course (see Motion below).  
CARRIED
- MOTION 33: Moved by M. Tuncali, seconded by S. Elliott-Johns that Senate approve that the one-credit course EDUC4858 Community Leadership Experience be added to the required course offerings for the 2-year Bachelor of Education program.  
CARRIED

**University Regulations for the Evaluation and Grading System – Incomplete Grades**

- MOTION 34: Moved by M. Tuncali, seconded by J. Graham that Senate approve the University Regulation for the Evaluation and Grading System - Incomplete Grades section be modified as follows:

**From:**

In exceptional circumstances, a student may request consideration for an Incomplete grade (I). Such request must be submitted in writing, through the Instructor to the Dean, together with the reasons for the request.

Any student assigned an Incomplete grade must complete all course requirements within one month after the end of the examination period. If after that period the course is not completed or an extension has not been granted by the Dean, a grade of zero will be assigned to those components not completed.

In order to be considered for an extension of the completion date beyond the normal one month period, a student must submit a written request to the Dean, through the Instructor, explaining the reasons for such an extension. Under no circumstances may a completion date exceed six months from the end of the examination period.

For all courses, the final dates for submission of incomplete term work is the scheduled date of the final examination. Term work not submitted by that date will receive a grade of zero; if the term work has been approved by Senate as required for the completion of the course, term work not completed by the date of the final examination will result in the recording of a failing grade in the course. Exceptions to these deadlines will be approved only by the Dean (in consultation with the course instructor) for good cause. In no way does this regulation supersede any deadlines for term work set by the instructor within the time span of the course.

**To:**

In exceptional circumstances, a student may request consideration for an Incomplete grade (I). Such request must be submitted, through the Instructor to the Dean, together with the reasons for the request.

Any student assigned an Incomplete grade must normally complete all course requirements within 30 days after the end of the examination period or the last day of the course if there is no final examination for that course. If after that period the course is not completed, a grade of zero will be assigned to those components not completed.

CARRIED

**ANNOUNCEMENTS****President**

The President began his announcements by congratulating Senator McCann on her well received presentation at the recent COU meeting. Her talk was about the power of an Arts and Science education. He expressed that he and his colleagues were very receptive to the points raised during the talk.

At the same meeting, one of the key agenda items was the review of the provincial funding formula. The scope of the review will be the entire system of operating fund transfers to universities, including the Basic Operating Grant, access envelopes for undergraduate and graduate growth, and all the other special purpose grants comprising the current \$3.5B system of operating grants. The President stressed that the operating grants will not increase, but are to be realigned. It will be important for Nipissing University to make the case for a baseline from which we can operate. COU will be advocating for a funding mechanism that provides stability. He acknowledged that we are fortunate to have Registrar Jamie Graham as he understands the funding formula and is able to represent our interests very well. Also discussed at this meeting were strategies for internationalizing Ontario universities.

At the recent AUCC meeting in Halifax, the theme was “Navigating the Future” in anticipation of the 2015 federal election and in the context of global trends in higher education, research & innovation. The President advised that AUCC is now known as Universities Canada. He did indicate he attended a small group discussion of promoting the value of the liberal arts.

The President was pleased that he and others are calling prospective students. These are applicants who are high performing. These students would have received a conditional acceptance and we need to convert these exceptional applicants into registrants.

The President noted that the search for a new Chancellor is ongoing. He welcomed Senator Saari as the new member to the search committee. He also thanked Senator Zhu for his work with the visiting Chinese delegation.

Senator Graham provided an update on applications and acceptances. As a reminder, the deadline for acceptance of our offer of admission for the September 2015 Fall/Winter term is June 1 for students who wish to guarantee their place in residence and to qualify for our entrance scholarships. He added that the University will continue to accept applications and acceptances for all potential students until September.

First choice applicants, when compared on a year over year basis, are up by 72 applications, a 12% increase over first choice applications last year. Overall applications are up 132 over last year, or a 5% increase. When compared to the system as a whole, first choice applications are down 1.7%. Acceptances to April 30, 2015 are well ahead of the previous year. First choice applicants stand at 224 as compared to 163 last year (a 37% increase). For all applications, our confirmations stand at 307 vs 247 last year or a 24% increase year over year. Senator Graham remains cautiously optimistic that we will see enrolment increases for Arts and Science and APS over the previous year. To counter this positive news, we currently are at 208 confirmations (480 last year) in the Education program. There is an upside to these numbers as there are a few deferred acceptances yet to be made. The applicant pool has declining significantly with the introduction of the two education program across the province (approximately 60%). Our conversion rate remained consistent with that of previous years.

**Provost Vice-President Academic and Research**

The Provost was pleased to announce that Dr. Glenda Black is the recipient of the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching while Joseph Boivin will be receiving the Nipissing University Teaching Award for CASBU members. Both honorees will receive \$1500 and a certificate at convocation.

**Student Representative**

Senator Hall from NUSU announced the official results of the Executive group elections. They are: President: Ian Hall; Vice-President External: Madison Byblow; Vice-President Internal: Jordan Andrews; Vice-President Student Life: Andrew Deugo; and Vice-President Satellite: Ruth Cortez-Alvarez. They officially took office on May 1.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Senate was adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

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M. DeGagné (Chair)

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C. Jenkins (Senate Secretary)