

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING

May 29, 2015

2:30 p.m. – Room F210

MEMBERS PRESENT:

M. DeGagné (Chair), H. d'Entremont, S. Rich, C. Richardson, R. Vanderlee, J. Graham,

A. Armenakyan, J. Barker, G. Brown, K. McCullough

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

L. Ashworth, B. Bruner, D. Hay, D. Jarvis, M-A Parr, C. Ricci, J. Scott, T. Sibbald,
A. Steele

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

C. Hachkowski

O. Pokorny, L. Rossi

K. Chutko, S. Kataoka

S. Feretycki

J. Andrews, I. Hall

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

M. Tuncali, N. Black

M. Litalien

G. McCann, M. Owens, S. Srigley

S. Elliott-Johns, T. Horton

T. Palangio, J. Zimbalatti

M. Byblow, A. Deugo

The minutes of the Senate meeting of May 15, 2015 were adopted.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

At the May 15 Senate meeting, there had been a question regarding the status of the Research Office and in particular what research resources would be available over the summer with regards to the preparation and writing of grant applications. The Provost replied that internal meetings regarding the restructuring are still ongoing and the results of the redistribution of responsibilities will be relayed to the University community once it is known. He also added that the Deans will be more involved in reviewing grant applications. There was also discussion about outsourcing grant writing services to companies

who specialize in this service. There was a follow-up question asking if faculty will have an opportunity for input into these changes. The Provost noted that if faculty have concerns, then it should be directed to the Research Council.

QUESTION PERIOD

There was a query directed to the Teaching and Learning Committee Chair with reference to the Student Opinion Surveys. The concern was the two questions that pertain to Labs/Seminars. It has been noted that sometimes students complete this section even if the course does not have a Lab/Seminar component. This can have a negative impact on the overall score and ultimately impact faculty who are applying for Tenure and Promotion. The question was if the Committee would consider establishing a separate version of the survey or instruct FASS to not include the questions about Labs/Seminars if the course does not have one. The current Committee Chair indicated he would pass the concern on to next year's Chair.

There were several questions raised regarding Undergraduate Summer Research Awards (USRA). Of concern was why the students that were not selected for NSERC USRA not offered Nipissing University USRAs. It was noted that there were funds budgeted for NU USRA in the current year's budget but they were not used. If the funds for NU USRA will be in the upcoming budget that is to be presented later, where are they located? The Senate Speaker requested that the questions be forwarded to the Senate Secretary. The Provost indicated he would take the questions under advisement.

A question was asked for a listing of the OPSEU positions that were recently cut. The VP Administration indicated the list was published on the OPSEU website (<http://opseu608.org/support-staff-abolished-positions/>). He added that any OPSEU inquiries should be directed to him.

There was a discussion concerning the maintenance of webpages when a faculty member retires. Specifically, the concern was the removal of valuable academic content being removed without permission of the faculty member. The suggestion was made to have the archivist monitor this important information. The VP Administration agreed that a policy would be drafted and presented for discussion at the September Senate meeting. He added that any guidance would be welcomed.

REPORTS of STANDING COMMITTEES and FACULTY or UNIVERSITY COUNCILS

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- **Annual Report**

MOTION 1: Moved by M. DeGagné, seconded by G. Brown that the Annual Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated May 14, 2015 be received.
CARRIED

- **May 21, 2015 Report**

MOTION 2: Moved by M. DeGagné, seconded by J. Barker that the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated May 21, 2015 be received.
CARRIED

PLANNING and PRIORITIES COMMITTEE

- **Annual Report**

MOTION 3: Moved by H. d'Entremont, seconded by M. Saari that the Annual Report of the Planning and Priorities Committee dated May 15, 2015 be received.

CARRIED

- **May 15, 2015 Report**

MOTION 4: Moved by H. d'Entremont, seconded by A. Ackerman that the Report of the Planning and Priorities Committee dated May 15, 2015, be received.
CARRIED

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

- **Annual Report**

MOTION 5: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by M. Saari that the Annual Report of the Undergraduate Studies Committee dated May 12, 2015 be received.
CARRIED

STUDENT APPEALS COMMITTEE

MOTION 6: Moved by J. Graham, seconded by D. Borman that the Annual Report of the Student Appeals Committee dated May 12, 2015 be received.
CARRIED

TEACHING & LEARNING COMMITTEE

- **Annual Report**

MOTION 7: Moved by C. Hachkowski, seconded by R. Gendron that the Annual Report of the Teaching and Learning Committee dated May 1, 2015 be received.
CARRIED

LIBRARY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

- **Annual Report**

MOTION 8: Moved by I. Hall, seconded by D. Borman that the Annual Report of the Library Advisory Subcommittee dated May 12, 2015 be received.
CARRIED

TECHNOLOGY & INFRASTRUCTURE SUBCOMMITTEE

- **Annual Report**

MOTION 9: Moved by G. Phillips, seconded by D. Borman that the Annual Report of the Technology and Infrastructure Subcommittee dated May 12, 2015 be received.
CARRIED
1 OBJECTION

GRADUATE STUDIES COUNCIL

- **Annual Report**

MOTION 10: Moved by S. Rich, seconded by R. Gendron that the Report of the Graduate Studies Council dated May 5, 2015, be received.
CARRIED

RESEARCH COUNCIL

- **Annual Report**

MOTION 11: Moved by H. d'Entremont, seconded by A. Ackerman that the Annual Report of the Research Council dated May 15, 2015 be received.
CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

- **M.A. in Sociology – Applied Social Research**

MOTION 12: Moved by H. d'Entremont, seconded by G. Brown that Senate authorize the submission of the M.A. in Sociology – Applied Social Research proposal to Quality Council as a stand-alone program at Nipissing University.
CARRIED

- **2015-16 Operating Budget**

The 2015-16 budget was presented for information by the Provost. It will go to the Board of Governors at the June 4, 2015 meeting for approval.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Grad Applicants**

MOTION 13: Moved by J. Graham, seconded by I. Hall that Senate consider receipt of the Report on Grad Applicants dated May 29, 2015.
CARRIED

MOTION 14: Moved by J. Graham, seconded by I. Hall that Senate receive the Report of Grad Applicants dated May 29, 2015.
CARRIED

MOTION 15: Moved by J. Graham, seconded by I. Hall that Senate grant approval to graduates listed in the Report of Grad Applicants dated May 29, 2015, as all have completed the requirements for their respective degrees, diplomas and certificates.
CARRIED

- Joint Committee to Review Senate and Board Bylaws and the Nipissing University Act

As a preamble to the following motion, Senator Saari, who is also a Senate representative to the Board of Governors, noted that during the review of the Board Bylaws, it had become clear to him that better definition of many of the terms found in the Act and the Senate and Board Bylaws seemed necessary. He is proposing that the two sets of Bylaws (Senate and Board) be reviewed jointly by the two bodies in order to harmonize them and to provide clear definition of the specific roles of the Board, Senate, and the Administration in Bicameral governance. It was agreed that the Senate Chair would extend the invitation to the Board of Governors.

MOTION 16: Moved by M. Saari, seconded by R. Gendron that Senate invite the Board to jointly strike a Committee of the Board and Senate with a mandate to ensure that Board and Senate Bylaws as well as administrative practices and policies conform to the Nipissing University Act.
CARRIED (UNANIMOUSLY)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President

The President encouraged faculty member to attend convocation and help them celebrate their milestones. Many of these grads come from first generation families.

ADJOURNMENT

Senate was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

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M. DeGagné (Chair)

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C. Jenkins (Senate Secretary)