

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING

October 9, 2015

2:30 p.m. – Room F210

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

A. Armenakyan, M. Litalien, K. McCullough, R. Vernescu

A. Ackerman, S. Arnocky, D. Borman, A. Burk, D. Campbell, N. Colborne, A. Erfani, R. Gendron, N. Kozuskanich, P. Nosko, M. Owens, S. Renshaw, M. Saari, S. Srigley, D. Walters

K. Clausen, S. Elliott-Johns, L. Frost, B. Hatt, D. Hay, T. Horton, D. Jarvis, T. Sibbald

C. Cho

O. Pokorny, L. Rossi

S. Feretycki

J. Andrews, M. Byblow, I. Hall

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

G. Brown

A. Karassev, F. Noël, T. Parkes, G. Phillips

M. Bruner, G. Rickwood, J. McIntosh

T. Waldock (Muskoka)

C. Hachkowski

A. Deugo

MOTION 1: Moved by N. Colborne, seconded by M. Saari that the minutes of the regular meeting of the Academic Senate dated September 11, 2015 be adopted as circulated.  
CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

In response to an inquiry regarding distribution of the HESA report at the September Planning and Priorities Committee (PPC) meeting, the Provost advised that PPC will discuss the report at a future meeting.

A question was raised about Senate's request for a joint committee to review the Board and Senate By-laws. Senator Saari advised that this request had been discussed at the October Board of Governors meeting and the request had been tabled to the next Board meeting.

### QUESTION PERIOD

There was a discussion regarding the PWC report. The President advised that the report is a government commissioned report, and the government will not release information while the University is undergoing the process. We have been far more open than other universities. The report has been distributed to senior management and the unions. Board members and student leaders can share the information. It would be appreciated if the report is not shared electronically as the information should be kept within the university. A series of Town Hall meetings will be held in the near future. Faculty and staff are free to attend and ask questions.

A request was made for an update regarding the timeframe of the closure of the two satellite campuses as well as insight as to who was involved with the decision making. The President advised that the Brantford closure followed 10 months of discussions with WLU. The central issue was the government mandated changes to funding. There was not enough revenues to make these programs viable for Nipissing University.

The closing of the Bracebridge Campus was a financial decision. After 19 years in the region and many different initiatives we did not have the student enrollment to continue. The demographics of the area are a problem. There are simply not enough university or college students in the area. There is a similar situation in Huntsville with another institution and their building is also empty. A resolution was passed at the June Board of Governors meeting and the campus was advised that September 2015 will represent the final intake of students. Decisions were made with careful consideration, and students were assured that their needs would be served.

A question was asked regarding faculty from the Brantford and Muskoka campuses being transferred to North Bay. The President advised that we have obligations under the CA and that we would honour them. We also have community obligations. The contributions that have been made by the community cannot be ignored. It is our wish to find other partners and leave the city with another education institution.

One Senator expressed their view that although part of the challenge from a broader input was demographics, there was also a faulty evaluation process. Money was needed to support diverse programs and initiatives. The suggestion that the Bracebridge Campus was not a viable campus was difficult to hear.

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

#### SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- **October 1, 2015 Report**

MOTION 2:           Moved by M. DeGagné, seconded by N. Colborne that Senate receive the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated October 1, 2015  
CARRIED

#### PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE

- **September 18, 2015 Report**

MOTION 3: Moved by H. d'Entremont, seconded by M. Tuncali that Senate receive the Report of the Planning and Priorities Committee dated September 18, 2015.  
CARRIED

MOTION 4: Moved by H. d'Entremont, seconded by T. Horton that Senate grant approval of a Stage 2 Program Proposal for a B.Ed. Adult Education as attached.  
CARRIED

MOTION 5: Moved by H. d'Entremont, seconded by M. Tuncali that Senate grant approval of a Stage 1 Letter of Intent for a BA & BSc Honours Specialization and Specialization in Data Science as attached.  
CARRIED

Questions were asked why the BA & BSc Honours Specialization and Specialization in Data Science program has been described as a Computer Science program when most of the courses are math courses, and if the program would be linked to a school. The Provost advised that these issues would be addressed before Stage 2 approval.

#### AMENDMENT of BY-LAWS

MOTION 6: Moved by N. Colborne, seconded by D. Borman that Article 9.5.2 of the Senate Bylaws be amended as follows:

*Current article reads:*

- (b) Members Elected by Faculty Council:
- (i) one (1) faculty Senator or non-Senator from each Faculty, one of whom shall be elected by the Committee to serve as Vice-Chair;

*Revised article to read:*

- (b) Members Elected by Faculty Council:
- (i) 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 of whom shall be elected by the Committee to serve as Vice-Chair;

#### ELECTIONS

- Elect one faculty Senator to serve as Academic Colleague on the Council of Ontario Universities. This term is normally for three years.

**ACCLAIMED:** Dan Walters

- Elect one faculty Senator to serve as alternate Academic Colleague on the Council of Ontario Universities. This term is normally for three years.

**ACCLAIMED:** Robin Gendron

- Elect two faculty Senators to serve on the Pension and Benefits Advisory Committee for a two year term commencing July 1, 2015.

The Provost advised that the Pension and Benefits Advisory Committee makes recommendations for changes to the Human Resources Committee of the Board of Governors. Membership of the committee consists of: two faculty members at large elected by Senate; two members from the Faculty Association; two administrative staff and two support staff. The Senate Speaker requested that this item be brought forward again at the November Senate meeting.

### REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

Senator Feretycki advised that NUAAB is currently seeking applications for membership. They are also seeking applications for the following Alumni Awards: Rising Star, Influential Alumni, Distinguished Alumni and Honourary Alumni. NUAAB now offers 18 awards, and plans to create two new awards to begin in 2016-17. Homecoming was a success. Thank you to everyone who attended, promoted, or otherwise contributed.

### NEW BUSINESS

- Grad Applicants

MOTION 7: Moved by J. Graham, seconded by M. Tuncali that Senate consider receipt of the Report on Grad Applicants dated October 9, 2015.  
CARRIED

MOTION 8: Moved by J. Graham, seconded by M. Tuncali that Senate receive the Report on Grad Applicants dated October 9, 2015.  
CARRIED

MOTION 9: Moved by J. Graham, seconded by I. Hall that Senate grant approval to graduates listed in the Report of Grad Applicants dated October 9, 2015, as all have completed the requirements for their respective degrees, diplomas and certificates.  
CARRIED

MOTION 10: Moved by M. DeGagné, seconded by H. d'Entremont that Senate move into an in-camera session.

MOTION 11: Moved by M. DeGagné, seconded by H. d'Entremont that Senate move out of the in-camera session.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The President commented on the recent Ontario Universities' Fair and thanked the participants who attended and worked at the booths. A record attendance was set again this year. The Fair is a great opportunity to speak to students and parents and promote the University.

The COU Executive Heads met recently and had a presentation from the Premier. The Premier discussed the increasing pressure to make links between post- secondary education and the labour force. She advised that she understands the

importance of education and the role universities' play in enhancing the student experience and developing critical thinkers. The Ministry also perceives student life as the students' ability to enter the workforce and how well universities are preparing students for job readiness. It was interesting to note for those who were at the Fair, that not a lot of questions were asked of "how will you develop the soul of my child, but "how will a university education prepare my child to find a job". We need to do a better job explaining the value of a university education.

A presentation was made by Ipsos Reid on the value of a university education. It prompted a lively discussion about the implications of the polling results, including the impact of the way colleges are positioning themselves in relation to universities, in preparing students for careers. If you are interested in reviewing the presentation, please contact Cheryl Zimba to request a copy.

The President acknowledged that Sheldon Levy, President and Vice-Chancellor of Ryerson University, will become the next Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU). His appointment begins on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Provost began his announcements by advising that Sandy Landriault had taken over as the new administrative assistant in the PVPAR office. She replaced Anne Bolger who has moved back east. Sandy's past work experience in the Registrar's and Education offices will be a great asset to her work on the academic side.

The Provost advised that it had recently come to his attention that the policy on adjunct professor status states that the list of any newly appointed adjuncts shall be provided. This has not been done on a regular basis. The list of appointments shall be reported at Senate on a monthly basis.

Senator Frost advised that she did not recall the appointment of Emilio Landolfi being discussed at Faculty Council. It was advised that in the case of Education it was determined that the appointment is required to pass through Faculty Council, rather than the Academic Unit. Dr. Frost asked for further clarification as to where and when the appointment was discussed.

The Dean of Arts & Science thanked all the faculty, staff and students who participated in the University Fair. He advised that a First Year Arts & Science Symposium was recently hosted. The event was organized by Dr. Pavlina Radia, jointly with Academic Advising and Student Services. It was well attended and plans are in the works to have another in January.

The Dean of Education thanked everyone who took part in Professional Week. The week was dedicated to the concurrent students. The students greatly appreciated the event.

The President of NUSU, Ian Hall, advised that the NUSU Annual General Meeting had been held and a new organizational structure was passed. Positions have been streamlined and a new Board of Directors is in place. Bylaws have been shortened from 55 to 35 pages. These changes passed unanimously. The Shine Gala, a charitable fundraiser to raise funds and awareness for Cystic Fibrosis Canada, has been re-scheduled and will be held on November 14<sup>th</sup> at the Wall. NUSU is encouraging youth voter turnout. Students can register to vote on campus and polling stations have been set up at Chancellors and Governors residences. Students can pick up a proof of residence form at any of the residences. Student Senator elections are now complete. Sydney Lamorea is the new A & S rep., and Kerri Sawyer has been re-elected as the APS rep. There were no candidates for the positions of Education and Graduate Studies. The Wall House grill is open every day. The Muskoka Campus has started a student food bank and cash and food donations are welcome.

ADJOURNMENT

Senate was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

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M. DeGagné (Chair)

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S. Landriault (Senate Recording Secretary)