

Nipissing University
Minutes of the Academic Senate Meeting

October 20, 2017

2:30 p.m. – Room F210

MEMBERS PRESENT:

M. DeGagné (Chair), A. Vainio-Mattila, C. Sutton, C. Richardson, M. Tuncali, R. Vanderlee, D. Iafrate

A. Armenakyan, L. Chen, L. Manankil-Rankin, P. Millar

R. Breton, A. Burke, N. Colborne, S. Connor, R. Gendron, A. Karassev, B. Kelly, L. Kruk, K. Lucas, G. McCann, T. Parkes, K. Srigley, D. Tabachnick, H. Teixeira, T. Vassilev, A. Weeks

J. Allison, C. Hachkowski, B. Hatt, T. Horton, M. Parr, C. Ricci, W. Richardson, G. Sharpe, T. Sibbald

N. Allaire

J. Zimbalatti

S. McArthur

S. Lamorea, T. Somerville

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

J. McAuliffe, N. Black

M. Sullivan

P. Nosko, S. Renshaw

G. Rickwood

C. Cho

T. Curry

S. Dunstall, C. Allen, J. Brunet, K. Walker, C. Tremblay

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA OF THE SENATE MEETING OF: October 20, 2017

MOTION 1: Moved by K. Srigley, seconded by L. Chen that the agenda of the Senate meeting of October 20, 2017 be approved.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SENATE MEETING OF: September 8, 2017

MOTION 2: Moved by R. Gendron, seconded by P. Millar that the minutes of the Senate meeting of September 8, 2017 be adopted.
CARRIED

READING AND DISPOSING OF COMMUNICATIONS

The Registrar provided a response to communication from a faculty member regarding a request to modify the existing final exam policy to include mid-term exams for 6-credit courses during the December exam period. After a discussion with the faculty member and a review of current practices at other Ontario Universities, the Registrar proposed creating a process for faculty who would like to request the scheduling of a mid-term exam during the December exam period. The Registrar's office will schedule an exam time that has minimal conflict for students. Guidelines for this process will be developed by the Registrar's Office. No changes to the final exam policy are necessary.

QUESTION PERIOD

Senator Tabachnick requested clarification of Senate By-Law 6.0(f) regarding the timetabling of classes to ensure faculty Senators are not scheduled to teach during regular Senate meetings. The Registrar advised that moving forward the Registrar's office will try to ensure that parameters are set so that faculty Senators do not have classes scheduled during regular Senate meetings.

Senator Horton addressed concerns regarding repeated requests from 2016-17 for information from the Teaching and Learning Committee on the use of an on-line student opinion survey (SOS). It was advised that the Teaching & Learning Committee currently does not have a Chair. The Speaker advised that the membership of the Teaching and Learning Committee has been amended in the attached revised By-Laws document to include the Academic Deans, or designate, one of whom shall be Chair.

A request was made for an update on the Canadore OPSEU Academic strike. It was advised that the Canadore OPSEU members agreed to stand down from the picket lines this week while Nipissing students were writing exams. No other media advisories have been provided, but it is expected that the strike will continue into next week.

In follow-up to a sighting of high school students participating in a tour of the Canadore facilities, a question was raised whether Nipissing provides tours to high school students. The Assistant VP Students advised that an Open House is held for students and parents, and we have recruiters that go out to the schools. Students, parents and guidance counsellors are invited and tours are arranged. Tours are also offered when the Robotics and Science Fairs are held on campus.

Senator Tabachnick followed up on questions raised at the September Senate meeting regarding the Campus Book Shop. He was seeking further clarity on the challenges students have faced receiving required textbooks. The Assistant VP Students thanked faculty for their concerns and advised that additional resources would be hired in the Campus Shop to replace a vacant position that had not been filled. He also advised that work is ongoing with the UTS Dept. to provide electronic data that will feed directly into the Campus Shop program. Most textbook orders from faculty have been received for the winter semester, but there are still a few outstanding. He will continue to provide updates as the issues are worked through. Senator Manankil-Rankin advised that at a recent NICHE Conference hosted at Nipissing University a discussion was held on eCampus Ontario using open source textbooks that are

available on-line. It is run by the Ministry and the cost of the textbooks is covered by tax payers. Senator Somerville also commented that the Canadian Association of Students is also pushing for more faculty to use eCampus resources.

Senator Tabachnick inquired as to how Nipissing University is addressing the issue of student conduct in surrounding neighbourhoods. The Assistant VP Students advised that the stance that the Nipissing and Canadore Student Unions, Police, City of North Bay Housing By-Laws and Home Owners groups are taking is to help educate students and promote students to be good neighbours. Senator Lamorea also responded by adding that NUSU has been working with the Police and they have attended City Council meetings. She advised that city by-laws are being challenged by the government. NUSU is also in talks with other universities to see how they are handling these issues.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND FACULTY OR UNIVERSITY COUNCILS

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MOTION 3: Moved by A. Weeks, seconded by G. McCann that Senate receive the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated October 11, 2017.
Senator Gendron expressed concerns that the Senate Executive approved the graduates on behalf of Senate and asked why this request could not have waited for approval at the October 20, 2017 Senate meeting. The Senate Secretary advised that the graduates had been advised that their degrees would be conferred at the October 13 Senate meeting. The October 13 Senate meeting was postponed to October 20 and requests had been received from BEd and Nursing students anxious to have their degrees conferred in order to be accredited.
CARRIED
OBJECTION – 3

MOTION 4: Moved by M. Tuncali, seconded by S. Lamorea that Senate receive the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated October 12, 2017.
CARRIED

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

MOTION 5: Moved by S. Lamorea, seconded by R. Vanderlee that the Report of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, dated September 25, 2017 be received.
CARRIED

MOTION 6: Moved by R. Vanderlee, seconded by A. Armenakyan that Senate approve the Advanced Standing Policy for Technology Advanced Diploma graduates.
CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

Len Gamache provided a follow-up presentation on the Campaign for Nipissing University and a copy of the new Learners and Leaders Campaign brochure was distributed. He acknowledged the hard work of the Development Team, as well as the leadership shown by NUSU and their contributions in making the Student Centre happen. He invited questions and welcomed suggestions of fundraising ideas and potential donors.

The following Notice of Motion for Recommendation 3.1 Special Governance Commission - Senate Budget Advisory Committee terms of reference and membership was distributed and will be discussed further at the November Senate meeting. This will also provide time to discuss nominations. Senator Tabachnick requested a friendly amendment to correct the Recommendation of the 3.1 Special Governance Commission not Committee as indicated in the handout.

By-Laws

Notice of Motion

Recommendation 3.1 Special Governance Commission

Senate Budget Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference

Purpose:

The Senate Budget Advisory Committee considers the financial position of the university and advises to Senate on budget planning as well as on the details of the annual university operating budget as it pertains to the allocation of resources for academic purposes. The Committee will also provide input into long-term financial planning within the context of the Academic Plan.

The recommendations of Senate on the annual operating budget and long-term financial plans will be forwarded to the Board of Governors, the body with ultimate fiduciary responsibility for the university.

Membership:

Chair: Provost, Vice-President Academic & Research
 Vice President, Finance & Administration
 Academic Dean
 Three Faculty Senators (one from each Faculty)
 Nipissing University Student Union Representative

Support:

Recording Secretary: Administrative Assistant to Provost, VPAR
 Assistant Vice-President, Students
 Director of Finance
 Registrar
 Director of Institutional Planning

AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

- **Notice of Motion (inadvertently left off the May 26, 2017 Senate Agenda)**

Article 10.3 Graduate Studies Council (GSC) be renamed to the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC).

- **Notice of Motion**

The By-Laws and Elections Subcommittee reviewed the Senate By-Laws and approved the suggested revisions. The By-Laws document is attached with track changes. The Speaker asked that Senators review the document as it will be voted on at the November Senate meeting.

ELECTIONS

- Elect one at large non-Senator for the Planning & Priorities Committee

As no nominations were received the Speaker advised that PPC is a vital committee and asked that this election be discussed with faculty members and nominations be brought forward at the November Senate meeting.

REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

Board of Governors

On behalf of the Board of Governors, Senator Zimbalatti welcomed two new external Board members, Karl Neubert and Joanne Laplante, as well as the new Provost and Vice-President, Dr. Arja Vainio-Mattila and the new Registrar, Debra Iafrate. She advised that the Board had approved the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending April 30, 2017 and a \$40 million goal for the fundraising campaign. She advised that reports had been received from the Executive, Audit and Finance, Governance and Plant and Property Committees. As well, a musical anthem has been approved for use at convocation and other University events. The next meeting of the Board of Governors will be held on November 9.

Alumni Advisory Board

Steve McArthur, Interim Chair of the Alumni Advisory Board, provided an update. He advised that the Homecoming activities went well. Although student participation was down this year from last year, Alumni attendance was double from last year. He is looking forward to working with NUSA and NUSU as well as with Len and the Development Team.

Joint Board/Senate Committee on Governance

Senator Tabachnick provided a report from the Standing Joint Board/Senate Committee on Governance meeting that was held on October 11. He advised that the committee is off to a promising start with a very collegial first meeting. The Special Governance Commission Report was reviewed and a proposal that the Joint Committee be added to the By-Laws of both Senate and the Board of Governors was recommended. The terms of reference were established and a work plan was developed to address the following recommendations:

1. The need to fully establish and populate the Senate Budget Advisory Committee;
2. The need to unify the Board and Senate policies on hiring;
3. Develop a joint orientation document for the Board and Senate related to collegial governance;
4. Develop a statement on collegial governance to be endorsed by the Board and Senate;
5. Determined a method of reporting back to the Board and Senate.

The next meeting will take place on December 6.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION 7: Moved by M. Tuncali, seconded by A. Vainio-Mattila that Senate consider receipt of the Report on Graduation Applicants dated October 20, 2017.
CARRIED

MOTION 8: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by A. Vainio-Mattila that Senate receive the Report of Graduation Applicants dated October 20, 2017.
CARRIED

- MOTION 9: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by S. Lamorea that Senate grant approval to graduate the students listed in the Report on Graduation applicants dated October 20, 2017.
CARRIED
- MOTION 11: Moved by S. Lamorea, seconded by C. Hachkowski that Senate move In-camera to bring forward six new names to be added to the ongoing Senate List for consideration to receive an Honorary Degree.
CARRIED
- MOTION 12: Moved by K. Srigley, seconded by L. Chen that Senate approve that the six names provided in camera be added to the ongoing Senate List for consideration to receive an Honorary Degree.
CARRIED
- MOTION 13: Moved by L. Kruk, seconded by S. Lamorea that Senate move out of camera.
CARRIED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The President advised that it has been a very busy start to the new academic year. He has met with Arnold Blackstar with the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development, Indigenous Education Branch, attended the 12th Annual Welcome Pow Wow, NU Doors Open and a series of 25th Anniversary events including the Speaker Series event. He thanked the faculty and staff involved in organizing the Speaker Series event and advised that it has been a lot of fun and the community is enamored with it. He provided an update on the University Fair and congratulated the organizers of the Challenging Canada 150 Symposium. A successful NICHE Conference was recently held, as well as the Annual Staff Service Awards and Fall Open House. This will be the last weekend for home games for soccer and the last lacrosse games of the season. Hockey starts this evening and on October 28 the Silk Road Melody Performance will be held.

The Provost and Vice-President Academic and Research wished to thank everyone for the warm welcome she has received. She advised that she has had a very busy first 10 days. She has been in preparation for a grant application to support Experiential Learning; attended a tenure & promotion briefing session; reviewed SSHRC and NSERC applications; visited the Registrar's office retreat; attended a Citizenship Ceremony; joined other time travelers at NU2042 Part III, and has met with the Senate Executive, USC, UMG, NUFA, Research Council, Budget Advisory Committee and attended the Arts and Science Faculty Council meeting. She provided an update on the five stages of the Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP) and advised of the reviews currently under way in Education, including Bachelor of Physical and Health Education, and the reviews that are currently in arrears or delayed. These include, but may not be limited to: Sociology; Fine Arts; School of Business; Geography; Criminal Justice; Nursing (accreditation); MSc in Mathematics and Masters in Environmental Studies/Science. She advised that at the next Senate meeting via the Planning and Priorities Committee she hopes to present a work plan that will address the reviews that are in arrears, address the reviews that could potentially be on track, but need to be initiated, and propose changes to the current protocol to ensure that in future these reviews are completed in a fashion that is both timely and supportive of academic planning. She also wishes to propose the establishment of a QA Committee as a sub-committee of the Planning and Priorities Committee as an initial step to fully review structures and processes that support Quality Assurance at Nipissing University.

The Vice-President, Finance & Administration advised that the Audited Financial Statements for the 2016/17 fiscal year have been approved by the Board of Governors and are posted on the website. The 2016/17 financial results were very positive, ending with a fully consolidated deficit of approximately \$300,000. The deficit was significantly less than anticipated as a result of additional grant funding for both Education and Nursing as well as continued underspending in several expense categories. The VPFA indicated that collective efforts across the University have resulted in significant reductions in the deficit over the past 4 – 5 years.

The Dean of Arts and Science congratulated the organizers of the Challenging Canada 150 Symposium for an amazing accomplishment.

The Dean of Education advised that the faculty is in the beginning stages of working with our community partners to host the 6th Annual Canadian Symposium on Indigenous Teacher Education with the symposium dates tentatively set for May 1-2, 2018. Details will follow.

The Dean of Graduate Studies and Research was attending the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies meeting and was unable to attend but asked the Provost to provide an update on the 2017 intake which includes 47 masters’ students (MA History - 9, MA Sociology - 5, MES/Sc - 9, MEd -13, MSc Kin - 9, MSc Math - 2) and 5 PhD Students. The total graduate enrolment is 150 (132 masters and 28 PhD students). The Office of Graduate Studies and Research has moved to F208. Carly Snell is the new Graduate Studies and Research Coordinator. April Gardiner is the Secretary to the Dean of GSR, and Dan St. Georges is the Manager of Research Services. The office has been restructured to service both Research and Graduate Studies. Meetings have been held with all the Graduate Coordinators/Chair to go over graduate processes and establish workflow. Researchers submitted 5 CIHR Project Grants, 1 CIHR Catalyst Grant, and 7 SSHRC Insight Grant applications. The total ask from CIHR was \$1,760,000 and \$1,051,557 from SSHRC. Are currently in the process of reviewing NSERC Discovery Grant and Research Tools and Instruments Grant applications for the Fall Competition.

Senator Lamorea advised of some of the many exciting events recently held, such as the opening of the NUSU lounge beside the UTS Dept., a very successful BBQ, Annual General and Board of Directors meetings and Wellness Week. Upcoming events include a Halloween trip to Wonderland, Movember, NUSU Join Team, Mental Health First Aid on November 4 & 5 hosted by the Military Resource Centre and the Shine Gala to raise money for Cystic Fibrosis.

ADJOURNMENT

Senate was adjourned at: 4:30 p.m.

Original signed by:

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M. DeGagné (Chair)

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S. Landriault (Senate Recording Secretary)