

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MINUTES
OPEN SESSION

February 5, 2015

The Open Session of the regular Board meeting was held on Thursday, February 5, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room (F303).

The following members were present:

T. Bachelder (teleconference)
M. Berubé (vice-chair)
T. Curry (teleconference)
C. Dennis (chair)
G. Durnan
J. Evans (teleconference)
D. Forget
T. Palangio
S. Portelli (videoconference)
B. Windsor
J. Zimbalatti
M. Webster
S. Minor
M. Shail
G. Black
J. Kovacs
M. Saari
J. Scott
C. Burke
I. Hall
D. Shogren
M. DeGagné, President & Vice-Chancellor

Board Officers: H. d'Entremont, Provost Vice-President Academic & Research
B. Keech, Vice-President Administration
C. Jenkins, University Secretary

Recording Secretary: S. Landriault

Guests: S. Renshaw, C. Richardson, M. Tuncali, R. Vanderlee, J. Graham, I. Hall,
L. Shea, C. Phillips

Absent with Regrets: M. Couchie, C. Miller, C. Piekarski

WELCOME / SPECIAL GUESTS/ INTRODUCTIONS

The Board chair welcomed Dr. Sal Renshaw, Senate Speaker as well as new Board members Tom Palangio and Derek Shogren. Mr. Shogren is the Mayoral representative.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Resolution 2015-02-01: Moved by B. Windsor, seconded by G. Durnan that the minutes of the Open Session of the meeting of the Board of Governors held on December 4, 2014 be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence

PRESENTATION

Dr. Sal Renshaw, Senate Speaker, provided Board members with an overview of the role that Senate has in a bi-cameral governance structure. She explained that in 2008, Nipissing went from a Senate of the whole model to a representative model. She noted that Senate is driven by a committee structure and that the balance of power in Senate and its committees favours faculty.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Board Chair extended his congratulations to the President on being recognized with an Order of Canada. He reminded members that the next Board meeting is May 7th.

CHANCELLOR'S REMARKS

None available.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

The President acknowledged the difficult week for the University as he relayed to members that limited-term layoffs occurred today. OPSEU layoffs are forthcoming.

The President reiterated that the University is still working at presenting its case to the Ministry that education funding cuts and policies have unfairly impacted Nipissing. In order to seek any additional funding, the University must submit to a third party review. The President added that even then there are no guarantees.

At the December 10th meeting of the Council of Ontario Universities (COU), Executive Heads met with Deputy Minister Newman. Universities explained to her why they were concerned about a funding review of the entire system. They stressed that for many years, universities have been making decisions about development, expansion and contraction of programs, based on the current grant system. The stability and predictability of the funding weights have allowed universities to make major plans based on these allocations including the hiring of tenured faculty and infrastructure spending.

At the same COU meeting, an update was provided on the development of an Aboriginal Communications plan. The COU reference group on Aboriginal Education identified the development and implementation of a strategic communications campaign that will focus on Aboriginal learners' success at Ontario universities. The Aboriginal Education Office at MTCU provided funding for two years to undertake this initiative.

During his remarks, the President asked Jamie Graham, Registrar, to provide an update on applications. Jamie reported that high school applications were up 5%. This increase is against the provincial trend of decreases in applications. A particularly encouraging note is that first choice applications are up 15%. This is promising as these applicants are more likely to turn into registrants. In response to the question as to why he thought Nipissing was experiencing an application increase, Jamie indicated that in his opinion the reformulation of the concurrent education program to a capstone type program and the number of liaison officers on the ground was a significant factor.

Following Jamie's remarks, the President indicated that though preliminary numbers appear to be promising, a concerted effort from faculty and administration to convert these applicants to registrants is essential.

The President announced some of the events he had taken part in in the last several weeks. He was pleased to attend the swearing-in ceremony for new recruits with the North Bay Police Service. Some of them were Nipissing graduates. On January 13th, he spoke at the official launch of the IB program at Chippewa SS. The Student and Donor Awards Social was held on January 22nd. Almost \$780K was disbursed. A funeral service for former Board Chair and Chancellor David Liddle was held on January 31st at the university as per the family's wishes. This was the first time a service has been held at the University and it was a great honour.

VICE-PRESIDENTS' REMARKS

Provost Vice-President Academic and Research

Dr. d'Entremont announced that the two decanal searches are finished and two resolutions would be forthcoming at the Closed Session of the meeting.

The tenure and promotion process for this year is almost finished and the Provost indicated that the TPU recommendations for all the applications, except for one case, and should be to the President by mid-February.

The Provost was pleased to report the signing of an agreement with Cape Breton University (CBU) (the Purdy Crawford Chair in Aboriginal Business Studies) concerning a national mentoring program for Aboriginal high school students. Nipissing will be administering the program in Ontario. With assistance from the Office of Aboriginal Initiative, summer workshop will be held on campus, beginning this year, along with other initiatives. The purpose of the project is to attract more Aboriginal students into business studies.

The budget process for 2015-16 is well underway. The Provost indicated that the University cannot assume any new money will be forthcoming from MTCU. The predictive models that we use will be more accurate once enrolment confirmations are in. However, at this point, the increase in applications is a positive indicator. He reminded members that the starting point is an \$11.5M deficit but that the long term sustainability of the institution must be kept in mind. Responding to questions regarding the program prioritization process, the Provost indicated that this process has not been driving the budget process to date since the final report has not been received.

Vice-President Administration

Bob Keech reported that Faculty bargaining is set to begin shortly. Meeting dates have already been confirmed from March to May.

He was also pleased to report that the Special Olympics was a tremendous success. Nipissing live streamed the opening and closing ceremonies, the first time that this has happened. Families who could not make it to these events were very pleased.

Mr. Keech advised Board members that the University has completed data telecom procurement via an RFP. Bell was the successful bidder and the University will save \$235K for three years.

Nipissing had a proposal accepted as part of the Mental Health Innovation Fund through the MTCU. The submission was a joint initiative with the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives and Student Development and Services. The initiative will be looking at engaging with our various communities from which we have student learners to identify and develop initiatives to address barriers to mental health supports for aboriginal learners. Funding is for three years.

DEANS' REMARKS

Dean of Applied and Professional Studies

Dr. Vanderlee reminded Board members that Academic Advisors and our students do a tremendous job is promoting the University. He also added that his faculty is embarking on a number of initiatives including blended learning and interdisciplinary studies to name a few.

Dean of the Schulich School of Education (interim)

Dr. Richardson advised that her faculty were currently undertaking a call campaign to education applicants. Offers will be going out March 7th. She noted that it has been a difficult day and week for the University with the announcement of the LTA cuts. The Dean also acknowledged everyone who worked hard on making the changes from a one-year to a two-year program.

Dean of Arts and Science (interim)

Dr. Tuncali was pleased to announce that the 8th Annual Undergraduate Research Conference is scheduled for March 7th and 8th. The conference provides an excellent opportunity for undergraduate students from across Ontario to discuss their original research while gaining experience at a formal academic conference. In conjunction with the conference is the **3 Minute Thesis Competition** to be held on March 6th. This is a university wide competition for Masters and Doctoral students. On March 9th, presentations will be made by the nominees for the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research. The following day there will be presentations by last year's winner and the winners of the Research Achievement Awards.

The Dean also acknowledged Dr. Françoise Noël's new book "*Nipissing Historic Waterway, Wilderness Playground.*"

QUESTION PERIOD

Janet Zimbalatti asked for an update on planning for Education faculty for next year with a focus on the use of the faculty. She congratulated the Dean and her staff on the work done to develop the two-year program. Dr. Richardson responded by acknowledging that there will be challenges to keep everyone busy but that it will be business as usual.

Ms. Zimbalatti also inquired as to any opportunities for students in non-business programs to learn about entrepreneurship and small business planning. Dr. Vanderlee noted that the School of Business has a research cluster in the general area on Innovation and Entrepreneurship and two courses are listed in the academic calendar in this subject area. A new course called 'Introduction to Entrepreneurship' was approved at the January senate meeting. The School of Business also has an **On-Campus Entrepreneurship Activities (OCEA) project** that is working in conjunction with Canadore, iiON, the Business Centre and Enactus.

Their goal is to create an entrepreneurship hub on campus that will help connect students to the resources and support they need to start their own business. Dr. Tuncali also added that a new course in experiential learning is open to all students. Students can use the skills they learned to obtain three credits.

ENROLMENT UPDATE

- Provided during the President's remarks

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

Colin Dennis advised Board members to review the 2015-16 meeting dates and schedule accordingly.

Audit and Finance Committee

Marianne Berubé commended Cheryl Sutton for pulling all the information together for the agenda for her first Audit and Finance Committee meeting. Cheryl is currently undertaking a dual role. The Board was notified that the University would be retaining the same auditor for next year. She reminded everyone that everything was being looked at for an eye to cutting costs.

Plant and Property Committee

At the January 19th meeting, Brian Windsor indicated that there were two renovation projects currently in the planning stages. Equipment and lab space will be required for a Stable Isotope Facility and Research Data Space is required for Statistics Canada. Both projects have submitted funding requests to house these facilities.

University Governance Committee

Trevor Bachelder noted that a priority for the Governance Committee is to fill the remaining vacancy on the Board. The Governance Committee is also continuing its quest to review the Board bylaws. The invitation for input into the bylaws review only yielded a response from NUSU.

Advancement Committee

The Advancement Committee also met on January 19th. Gord Durnan explained that the Committee reviewed a two-page summary of a fundraising plan developed by Lisa Shea, Director, Development and Alumni Relations. This plan will be building on the foundation of the University's Strategic Plan. It is the beginning of bringing in philanthropy and giving opportunities to invest in Nipissing University.

BOARD REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER COMMITTEES

Academic Senate

Report included with the agenda.

Senate Standing and Ad Hoc Committees

No report.

Alumni Advisory Board

Mark Webster reported that they the Alumni Advisory Board was still canvassing for potential Board of Governor's members.

The Aboriginal Council on Education

Donna Forget was pleased to report that the Nipissing University Aboriginal Council on Education approved the 2015 Aboriginal Strategic Plan on January 29, 2015. The five-year plan (2015-2019) is organized around three strategic priorities: The Aboriginal Student Experience, Academic and Research and Aboriginal Community Engagement.

The **vision** of Enji Giigdoyang, the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives, is that Nipissing University welcomes Aboriginal students, families and communities and commits to making a difference in the lives of Aboriginal peoples.

The **mission** of Enji Giigdoyang, the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives, is to support Aboriginal student success by:

- Providing supports for Aboriginal students to thrive;
- Expanding access to and facilitating culturally supportive academic and research opportunities; and
- Building meaningful partnerships with Aboriginal communities.

The Office of Aboriginal Initiatives successfully secured two Targeted Initiative Fund (TIF) grants from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities for a total of \$300,000 over two fiscal years. The Redefining Aboriginal Student Success project is currently underway and will include a series of conversations with Aboriginal students, scholars, and community members/Elders followed by the development of a report that will be shared with Ontario universities and the Ministry. The second project, on Aboriginal self-identification, will begin in fiscal year 2016 and will include Aboriginal community consultation, improving the Aboriginal self-identification mechanism at Nipissing University, and an awareness campaign to increase Aboriginal self-identification on campus.

In December 2014, the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives partnered with Near North Mobile Media Lab and North Bay Film to welcome esteemed documentary filmmaker, Alanis Obamsawin, to North Bay for a screening of her most recent film, *Trick or Treaty*, which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2014. The screening was followed by an Artist Talk for the community.

Brantford Regional Campus

No report

Muskoka Regional Campus

Gord Durnan announced that Hunter's Bay Radio has a new program at the Bracebridge campus. Faculty member Dr. Anne Wagner hosts a program on mental health. He was also pleased to report that applications to the Muskoka campus are up almost 100% from last year.

Nipissing University Student Union

Chris Burke advised that NUSU is moving forward with their elections and dates will be set shortly. He also reported that plans for the construction of a new student centre are still moving forward.

OTHER BUSINESS

Matti Saari acknowledged Adam Adler's sold out Near North Voices concert. He noted it was an excellent example of the town/gown relationship.

Janet Zimbalatti advised of the upcoming North Bay Symphony Orchestra (NBSO) event Voyage of the Violin. She also reported that a piece of orchestral music commissioned by the NBSO to be descriptive of Lake Nipissing and the cultural heritages of the region has been developed. A successful funding application to the Ontario Arts Council was made by NBSO with letters of support from Nipissing University, NUSU and the Nipissing Alumni Advisory Board. The lyrics will be part of an internal competition by our students. A prize will be offered by the University, funded by the NAAB, the university and NUSU. The world premiere of the entire composition "Nipissing Big Water" will be presented on Saturday, February 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Capital Centre. Dr. Mike DeGagné will part of the event.

ADJOURNMENT

The Open Session of the Board of Governors was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Secretary

Board Chair