

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

OPEN SESSION

January 12, 2017

The Open Session of the regular Board of Governors meeting was held on Thursday, January 12, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. in the Nipissing University Board Room (F303).

Members present: Marianne Berube, Board Chair  
Mike DeGagné  
Gord Durnan (via teleconference)  
Gary Jodouin  
Trevor Bachelder  
Tom Palangio  
Karen Barnes  
Tom Curry (via Skype)  
Jamie Lim (via teleconference)  
Colleen Miller (via teleconference)  
Steve Portelli (via teleconference)  
Janet Zimbalatti  
Sean Feretycki (via Skype)  
Derek Shogren  
Rose Jawbone (via teleconference)  
Hilary Earl  
Blaine Hatt  
Nathan Kozuskanich  
Crystal Pigeau  
Ryan Hehn  
Jordan Andrews  
Jordan Dempster  
Christine Dowdall (University Secretary)

Regrets: Scott McLeod  
Paul Cook

Guests: Cheryl Sutton  
Harley d'Entremont  
Jamie Graham  
Ursula Boyer  
Casey Phillips  
Carole Richardson  
Jim McAuliffe  
Len Gamache  
Dave Ratcliffe  
Baiba Zarins  
Lauren Easton  
Victoria Maich  
Angela Fera  
Toivo Koivukoski

Recording Secretary: Maggie Daniel (Administrative Assistant, President's Office)

---

**1. Welcome/Opening Comments**

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. The Board Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and in celebration of the New Year, she distributed Ontario Wood Works 2017 calendars courtesy of the Canadian Wood Council.

**2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

The Board Chair called for any conflicts of interest concerning any of the agenda items. No such declarations were made.

**3. Use of Recording and/or Broadcasting Devices**

No declarations were made regarding the use of any recording and/or broadcasting device.

**4. Adoption of the Minutes from the November 3, 2016, Board meeting**

**Resolution 2017-01-01: *That the minutes of the Open Session of the meeting of the Board of Governors held on November 3, 2016, be adopted as circulated.***

*Moved by moved by Jordan Dempster; seconded by Tom Palangio.  
Carried.*

**5. Scholar Practitioner Program (SPP) (Nursing) – Baiba Zarins, Program Manager**

President DeGagné introduced Dr. Baiba Zarins, Program Manager for the Scholar Practitioner Program (SPP), Nipissing's second degree nursing program for university graduates who want to pursue a degree in nursing. Joining Dr. Zarins for the presentation were two SPP students: Victoria Maich, a first year student, and Lauren Easton, a student in her final semester of the program.

Dr. Zarins provided a brief outline of the highlights of the program, explaining that it is a second degree accelerated BScN program that was launched in September of 2011. Now celebrating its fifth year, the program received a full seven-year accreditation (the maximum term allowed) by the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing. There are, on average, 200 students at a time in the program.

Victoria Maich explained that she started the program in September 2016. She chose the program for its unique curriculum structure, and she had the opportunity to do her preceptorship (practical training) at Sick Kids Hospital. Victoria chose the Nipissing program because of its unique curriculum structure which includes self-directed learning and one-to-one preceptorship throughout the program.

Lauren Easton is a second year student who was drawn to the program specifically because of its location: Toronto. The personalized application process, one-on-one preceptorships, freedom for the students to create their own paths and opportunities to work as a research assistant were other benefits that drew her to Nipissing's program.

An engaging discussion took place following the presentation, with Board members asking the students and Dr. Zarins a number of questions. Neither of the students had been to Nipissing University before, and all three presenters thanked the Board for the opportunity to talk about their collective experiences with the Scholar Practitioner Program.

**6. Sexual Violence Prevention, Support and Response Policy – Casey Phillips, Assistant Vice-President, Students**

The Assistant Vice-President of Students, Casey Phillips, presented a document entitled Sexual Violence Prevention, Support and Response Policy. The policy is a revision of the initial policy which was approved by the Board in October of 2015. In the spring of 2016, the Ontario Government introduced Bill 132 which outlined specific regulations that all post-secondary institutions were required to incorporate into a standalone policy. Nipissing's revised policy meets all of the University's obligations under Bill 132.

The policy, which relates exclusively to students, underwent a significant amount of consultation. The draft was placed on the University website for review, and feedback from students, staff and faculty was sought.

The AVP stated that the policy was presented to, and approved by, the Executive Committee of the Board at the December meeting as the legislation mandated that all institutions had to have a stand-alone policy in place by January 1, 2017.

**7. Fundraising Progress Report and Timelines – Len Gamache**

Len Gamache updated the Board of Governors on the progress of the University's fundraising efforts to date and provided a timeline for going forward. He reminded the Board of some of the things that have taken place over the past several months including assessing our development infrastructure, conferring on funding priorities and ensuring Nipissing is ready for major fundraising.

Input has been received by several individuals and groups across the institution, and the Executive Group and the Deans are currently engaged in a deliberation process that will result in the establishment of priorities. Those priorities will determine where to focus our energy going forward.

A timeline document was presented, with April and May being slated as target dates for presenting the finalized priorities to Senate and the Board.

The call for Board members to show support for Nipissing has resulted in a significant number of personal donations from Board members, and that show of solidarity confirms that we are all on this path towards building a culture of philanthropy together.

**8. Chair's Remarks**

The Chair thanked Board members for the substantial amount of work that was done in 2016. The completion of the Special Governance Commission report, as well as the appointment of the VPFA and the reappointment of the President, were significant accomplishments that took a lot of time and effort on

the part of many. She said that 2017 is off to a good start, and a lot of positive things are going on at Nipissing.

#### **9. Chancellor's Remarks**

No remarks.

#### **10. President's Remarks**

President DeGagné provided an outline of activities that have occurred over the recent weeks, saying that they generally fall within one of the following categories: external promotion of the University; community; government; and/or internal. A comprehensive list of events is appended to the end of these minutes.

The President and the Director of the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives are co-chairs of Reconciliation North Bay. This community-wide initiative is looking at fostering reconciliation in the City of North Bay. The group was recently called on to respond to the 'ice huts' issue that has been in the local news of late. Dr. DeGagné believes it is important to minimize the negative comments and focus on the people who are trying to do the right thing in order to move forward.

With regard to the upcoming changes to the funding formula for universities, it is expected that the changes will make a difference to Nipissing University as an organization. The decisions Nipissing makes will be focused around our SMA negotiation process.

The President had a one-on-one conversation with the Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development. The Minister is very interested in supporting indigenous students, and as we are approaching an election, there is a sense that the government will act to support indigenous education in a very visible way.

The President and his team continue to meet with Canadore to discuss shared capital matters. Nipissing's working relationship with Canadore has seen improvement.

#### **11. Vice-President's Remarks**

**The Vice-President, Finance & Administration** reported that Nipissing University has been chosen to participate in a pilot program for net billing for students. This is expected to be beneficial for students as they will be able to see at a glance what their tuition amounts are, what subsidies they may receive, etc. Nipissing received a special grant of \$150,000 to finance the implementation of the program.

The VPFA expects to receive formal notification soon from DBRS regarding our credit rating. Once that is finalized, we will be able to go out to market for the renegotiation of our debt.

The annual budget process is moving along. All departments have received their budget packages, and the majority of the preliminary submissions have been returned to the Senior Manager, Finance.

**The VPAR and Provost** reported that he attended a two day conference at Vancouver Island University. The invitation to attend was sent to regional institutions interested in indigenous education. Nipissing's Chair of Indigenous Education, Dr. Cindy Peltier, and two of her graduate students were also in attendance, and the Provost commended them for representing Nipissing so well. He said that Nipissing is positioning itself as an institution that can be a key player in Indigenous education.

## **12. Deans' Remarks**

**The Dean of the Schulich School of Education** stated that we are in the first round of the second term of the second year of the Bachelor of Education program. Courses are now compressed into six week terms, which is new to the faculty in North Bay. A number of international practicums will be taking place this year, with some Brantford students heading to Italy while some North Bay students are headed for Kenya. A number of students are travelling to Trois-Pistons where they will participate in a total immersion experience, while others will be participating in an alternative practicum in Fort Albany.

The Teacher of Anishinaabemowin as a Second Language program is now being offered in Kenora. This program allows students to attend school in their home communities while working as Education Assistants (EAs).

**The Dean of Graduate Studies and Research** provided an update on the number of grant applications that have been submitted to date. There is an overall increase to the number of tri-council (NSERC, SSHRC and CIHR) grants received at Nipissing this year which is particularly important because much of our other funding is based on our success with the tri-council grants.

Applications for graduate programming is up over this time last year, with applications due on Monday. The new Master of Arts Sociology program and the Master of Science in Kinesiology are both experiencing good application numbers.

The School of Graduate Studies is looking at ways to better track the research output from Nipissing faculty.

## **13. Enrollment Update**

The Registrar & AVP Institutional Planning reported that our headcount numbers are within half a percentage point of our forecast. There are increases to some program areas and decreases to others. The majority of the increases are in programs that are funded separately from the base operating grants, resulting in an expected overall increase to revenue.

## **14. Question Period**

A question was raised regarding the status of Nipissing's academic and business plans. The Provost explained that a draft academic plan was prepared, but it was met with some resistance from the Faculty of Arts & Science. The Faculty will provide the Provost with some suggested revisions, and it is expected that a draft will go back to the Planning & Priorities Committee for consideration later this term.

The academic plan needs to be completed before the VPFA can develop a business plan.

## 15. Committee Reports

### Audit and Finance Committee – Tom Palangio, Chair

Chair Tom Palangio provided a brief synopsis of the December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Audit & Finance Committee. Revenue predictions are tracking as expected, and it is anticipated that the overall operating deficit for this year will be lower than projected.

### University Governance Committee – Gary Jodouin, Chair

Chair Gary Jodouin reported that the December meeting of the Governance Committee was primarily centered on the Special Governance Report. The meeting resulted in two recommendations to be brought forward to the Board:

**Resolution 2017-01-02: That the Board of Governors accepts the recommendation of the Governance Committee to accept the recommendations of the Special Governance Commission Report, Collegial Governance at Nipissing University: Shared Challenges and Responsibilities.**

*Moved by Trevor Bachelder; seconded by Hillary Earl.  
Carried.*

**Resolution 2017-01-03: That the Board of Governors accepts the recommendation of the Governance Committee to hold a joint meeting between the Board of Governors and the Senate to discuss implementation of the recommendations of the Special Governance Commission Report.**

*Moved by Blaine Hatt; seconded by Gary Jodouin.  
Carried.*

### Advancement Committee – Gord Durnan, Chair

Chair Gord Durnan reported that Nipissing is making good progress with our advancement efforts. The minutes from the December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting were included with the agenda for today's Board meeting.

### Plant and Property Committee – Trevor Bachelder, Chair

Chair Trevor Bachelder stated that the December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the PPC centered around an update from the Director of Facilities. Details are included in the minutes from that meeting.

## **16. Board Representatives on Other Committees**

### Academic Senate

Blaine Hatt explained that quorum was lost halfway through the last Senate meeting, so the agenda for the January meeting will be substantial. He provided a brief outline of the discussions that were held and the motions that were passed. He also reported that the Senate Bylaws are currently being reviewed.

Len Gamache gave a presentation at the December meeting, and follow-up presentations have been scheduled for February and March.

### Alumni Advisory Board

The NUAAB is currently reviewing applications for a number of vacancies on the board. It is expected that new members will be invited to join the board for the 2017-18 year.

The Advisory Board is continuing to work with University administration to clarify the relationship between NUAAB and Nipissing. They hope to complete this before the end of April 2017.

The NUAAB welcomed an NOHFC intern whose role is to assist with research, planning, outreach and communication. They expect this position will contribute to enhancing the NUAAB's systems, plans and infrastructure and that these activities will play an important role in the NUAAB's contribution to fundraising and other broader institutional objectives.

The next NUAAB meeting is being planned for mid-to-late January.

### Aboriginal Council on Education

No report.

### Brantford Regional Campus

Colleen Miller provided an update on the Brantford Campus. Some of the highlights of her report included the Year Five teacher candidates being back on campus for their last term with Nipissing University; the "Professional Fridays" events where Year Five students are provided with the opportunity to meet with representatives from the Ministry of Education, OCT, QECO and other federations that exist for teachers in Ontario; the planning for the 2017 convocation ceremony; and the international practicum to Italy taking place in May.

### Nipissing University Student Union

NUSU President Jordan Andrews reported that NUSU is moving forward with their planning timelines and deadlines for the new Student Centre building. They are aiming to break ground before the end of the term. They expect to be going out to tender at the end of this month.

NUSU worked with the Student Development and Services department on a "reorientation week" to welcome new and returning students back to campus after the holiday break. There were a number of great activities and panels, and a New Year's Bash will be held at the Davedi Club this Friday.

Nominations and elections for next year's executive team begin next week. Elections will be held from January 30 to February 1, with the new directors taking office on May 1.

Jordan Dempster, VP Governance and Legal Affairs, spoke about some fundraising initiatives NUSU has been working on. The student union currently has a handful of bursaries that are given out to students, and they are attempting to increase those numbers. They have partnered with the local Boston Pizza to raise funds towards an endowment. Customers who write "NUSU" on their Boston Pizza bill will have a portion of the bill total donated towards the endowment. There will also be a fundraising dinner at Shoeless Joe's on February 26<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are being sold for \$20 each, and the funds raised will also go towards the endowment. The target for the endowment is \$10,000.

NUSU has also been providing donation/cash boxes to local businesses who set the boxes up at their cash registers where money is collected from customers. The collections will go towards scholarships and bursaries. In an effort to find a way to provide service to grad students at Nipissing, they have established a graduate fund bursary. This bursary will begin at \$100, but it is NUSU's hope that it will grow to a more significant amount in time.

NUSU submitted an application for an official charity number. If approved, the new status should aid in NUSU's attempts to raise more money for such things as the student food bank and additional scholarships and endowments and Scholarships.

Finally, the NUSU reps expressed appreciation to the Board for the opportunity to be involved in the governance of the University.

## **17. Other Business**

A local online newspaper published an article about the Executive Compensation Program that has been introduced by the provincial government. The article referred to a posting on the Canadore Board of Governors website and suggested that Canadore's President and Vice-Presidents may be in line to receive very large salary increases as a result of the new framework. It further stated that Nipissing University will be undergoing a similar process that could have a similar result.

Dr. DeGagné explained the purpose of the new framework and how it will work. As the intention is to compare each institution to other like-sized institutions, it is not anticipated that any such massive increases will happen here. COU is very involved in the process, and our comparator group will be suggested for us. We intend to choose reasonable, fair comparators which will have to be approved by the Board. Our process will be much different than what is outlined on the Canadore website and in the newspaper article.




**18. Adjournment**

Resolution 2017-01-04: ***That the Open Session of the Board of Governors' regular meeting now adjourn.***

*Moved by Tom Palangio; seconded by Blain Hatt.  
Carried.*

Open session adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
University Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chair

*(Addendum as per agenda item #10.)*

**President's Schedule – Highlights**

**November/December 2016**

- Regular meetings with Len Gamache (Advancement)
- Regular meetings with the Mayor Al McDonald
- CIHR Grant Application with Karey McCullough, Cindy Pelletier and others
- Chairing meetings for Reconciliation North Bay
- Participated in all three of the Senior Administration processes
  - VPFA
  - Provost & VPAR
  - President
- Board of Directors/Steering Committee: a grant to look at 'integrated stepped care for youth mental health'
- Board of Directors 'Teach for Canada'
- Professional Development Day (Regulation Division) Law Society – Spoke on the legacy of IRS and colonialism, intergenerational impacts and trauma.
- Departmental Audit Committee (DAC) Symposium "The Deliverology Agenda – What role can DAC play?"
- Funding Formula Discussion: Northern Universities
- Fall Faculty Book Launch
- Tuition Framework discussions
- Remembrance Day Ceremony
- Osgoode Certificate in Negotiation – "The Role of Culture" lecture
- Military Appreciation night – Men's hockey game
- University Presidents' Plenary Panel at the 'Maamiwizing Indigeneity in the Academy' Conference
- CommunityShift – Professional Development – University of Western Ontario

- RCAP Event with Marlene Brant-Castellano, Frederic Wien, video by Georges Erasmus
- World AIDS Day event, North Bay
- Met with Minister Deb Matthews to discuss Indigenous Education
- Lakehead Toronto Alumni Dinner
- 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Media Launch
- ISMP (International Student Mentorship Program) Fall Semester Banquet at the North Bay Museum
- Women's Soccer Recruitment
- Meeting with Canadore – George Burton, Rich Peters and Cheryl Sutton
- Red Dress Project event – candlelight vigil, guest speaker series
- Attended the Assembly of First Nations Holiday Gathering
- CIS Academic All-Canadian Brunch
- Nipissing University Dinner at the Davedi Club
- Mary Pat Sullivan – Director of the Social Work Program
- Ravi Prasad Siva – Director of the Business Program
- Teleconference with Irene Tomatuk and Christine Neilson to discuss the Great Moon Gathering Conference. (Keynote speaker for the event)

#### **January 2017 (to date)**

- Lakers Reorientation Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast
- Megan Goulais – new InBusiness Regional Manager
- Teleconference with Kyle Hill, Executive Director for the non-profit organization called Teach for Canada.