

Nipissing University  
Minutes of the Academic Senate Meeting  
May 11, 2018  
10:30 a.m. – Room F210

MEMBERS PRESENT:

M. DeGagné (Chair), Arja Vainio-Mattila, J. McAuliffe, M. Tuncali, R. Vanderlee, D. Iafrate, N. Black

A. Armenakyan, L. Manankil-Rankin, P. Millar, M. Sullivan

R. Breton, A. Burk, N. Colborne, R. Gendron, A. Hatef, B. Kelly, L. Kruk, G. McCann, P. Nosko, T. Parks, S. Renshaw, K. Srigley, D. Tabachnick, A. Weeks

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

C. Cho

S. McArthur

N. Allaire

O. Pokorny

A. Higgins, H. Mackie, T. Somerville, A. Wood

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

C. Sutton

C. Richardson

L. Chen

S. Connor A. Karassev, E. Mattson, H. Teixeira, T. Vassilev

W. Richardson

L. Rossi

T. Curry, J. Zimbalatti

S. Lamorea, K. Walker, C. Tremblay, T. Mein, S. Dunstall, J. Brunet

The Speaker welcomed all and acknowledged the traditional territory lands in which Nipissing sits on.

The Speaker advised that due to unforeseen circumstances, the Senate Secretary (Sandy Landriault) will be away and Martee Storms would be standing in for the next two Senate meetings.

The Speaker called upon the Chair to say a few words.

The Chair acknowledged the importance of using the land acknowledgement at the beginning of meetings.

The Chair advised that the communication that was previously circulated regarding the death of one of our students had the name omitted out of respect for the family. The family has given us permission to announce the name. The Chair asked for a moment of silence to acknowledge Patrice Wren.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA OF THE SENATE MEETING OF: May 11, 2018

MOTION 1: Moved by Tyrel Somerville, seconded by M. Tuncali that the agenda of the Senate meeting of May 11, 2018 be approved.  
CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SENATE MEETING OF: April 13, 2018

MOTION 2: Moved by R. Gendron, seconded by A. Weeks that the minutes of the Senate meeting of April 13, 2018, be adopted.  
CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

MOTION 1: Moved that Senate approves the proposal to recommend to the Board of Governors a temporary (12-month) restructuring of the Applied and Professional Studies Faculty that will allow the School of Business to report to the Dean of Education, the School of Nursing to report to the Provost, and the remaining programs in the Faculty report to the Dean of Arts and Science.

The above motion has been withdrawn and a new motion has been presented. All Senators were sent the new motion by e-mail this morning from D. Tabachnick. The new motion was presented as noted below:

MOTION 2: Moved by D. Tabachnick, seconded by N. Colborne that Senate approve the proposal to recommend to the Board of Governors a temporary (up to 12-month) change in the reporting mechanism that will see the School of Business and Criminal Justice report to the Interim Associate Dean of Applied and Professional Studies, the School of Nursing report to the Dean of Education, and the remaining programs report to the Dean of Arts and Science. CARRIED

The Provost provided some background and context to the motion.

The Speaker asked if there were any questions:

Senator Gendron thanked the Provost for providing some context and asked what the rationale for changing is and could we do this under the existing structure?

The Provost responded that this has been a process of evolution to get to this point. There is a desire to change things as little as possible in terms of resources. Since we have existing deans who could do this work, we need to utilize them. To be transparent, to think about how institutions change, sometimes you need to create different shapes from the same conversation there has always been. In this context, there is no disruption to the actual things that we do, want to break down the silos. Not changing anything however, there is a possibility to change in the future.

Senator Millar came forward with a lengthy presentation on the challenges facing the university in areas of enrollment and administrative costs.

The Speaker advised Senator Millar several times to stick with the motion put forward and to keep his points to the motion. The Speaker asked if there was a question on the motion put forward.

Senator Millar asked were these changes in response to the challenges facing our university or were they an attempt to cover up your mismanagement of the new dean?

The Chair noted that the motion is on the floor, we have had it moved and seconded and have had discussion on the motion. It is important for the record that from an administration point of view, we are following the Nipissing Act to the letter. There is a fundamental disagreement in how the Act is interpreted. The Act gives general direction to the institution on how to carry out its business. The point of this motion is not to debate the sub points; when getting into specifics, we will always say without limiting the generality of the agreement (i.e. term limits); when something is not specific it does not exist. There is nothing in the act that refers to the collective agreement. Working under the Senate nowhere does it say 'approval'? So without the recommendation of the Senate, the board could not do its work? Suggesting here is as we proceed, it is important to emphasize that we are following the NU Act to the letter. When it comes to structures you may or may not make the recommendation. Disagree strongly with the argument.

Senator Armenakyan thanked the Provost and Chair for the clarification and communication and advised that the timing could have been better. Speaking on behalf of the School of Business, we'd like to modify the motion. The motion is to keep status quo and to continue conversations and see where we can go.

Senator Manankil-Rankin noted that the new model is favourable for the nursing program and strongly supports this motion.

Senator Vanderlee asked how the motion changed from the last Senate meeting to this Senate meeting. He asked for some clarity as why it changed and is Senate ready to accept another motion?

Senator Tabachnick provided some clarity and apologized for omitting Senator Vanderlee in the conversation. Senator Tabachnick advised that there was a pre-Senate meeting (all senators invited), where discussions were had and there were a variety of models that came out of the meeting. He went on to say that a counter proposal was provided by the Provost. With that came this motion.

Senator McCann asked if we can keep the status quo or are we locked in.

The Provost advised that it is possible not to change anything. It is the decision of Senate.

Senator Gendron advised that according to the Vice-President, Finance and Administration the budget includes the Dean of APS.

K. McCullough, Director of School of Nursing spoke on behalf of students and faculty and advised they would very much prefer to keep status quo. We have come to realized that it's not a possibility. Therefore, they do support the motion on the floor. As there will not be a director, they will have a lack of leadership. She advised that they are hopeful the situation will be rectified internally. Having a dean is crucial to the School of Nursing.

Senator Sullivan recognized that the discussion of the faculty as a whole, for social work, there are only 2. She expressed her disappointment to not have had a discussion with the Provost and advised they are happy to communicate. Their voices haven't been heard at these many venues.

The Provost advised that there were several attempts made to have this conversation with APS faculty.

Senator Gendron raised a concern about the tenure and promotion process during the interim phase.

The PVPAR advised that they will remain the same.

A Motion to rescind the original motion and change to:

MOTION 3: Moved by A. Armenakyan that the School of Business does not support the proposed structure of APS and request status quo be maintained until a detailed study analysis is performed.

A vote was called to rescind the motion and maintain the status quo. The Motion was defeated.

Announcement – re: Senate Budget Advisory Committee

A. Burke reported that the Senate Budget Advisory Committee has met twice. Spent time looking at the budget, the budget for this year was already underway to be able to provide input. The committee will have more input down the road. Role of this committee and what role does it play? We are developing the terms of reference. At what point does this committee have a voice and exercise their role. Going to work towards having a clear sense of it, it is a progression. Indications from the administrative side, it is important for academic and budget planning to look further into the future.

#### 4. READING and DISPOSING of COMMUNICATIONS

No further communications were brought forward.

#### 5. REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

1. The President provided brief highlights.

- Thanked the Canadian Symposium on Indigenous Teachers Education and advised it was well attended, very diverse group.
- The North Bay Heritage Fair is taking place today.
- It is nice to see our recruitment heading towards 10 years old.
- Attended a meeting with a local engineering group, they have been pressing us to consider engineering as an option.
- Dr. Evan Hoffman event tonight – encourage every to attend.

The Chair provided an overview of the Tenure and Promotion results:

- Associate Professor: P. Zou, J. Corkett;
- Full Professor: B. Hatt, D. Walters, D. Zarifa, D. Hay, D. Geden, J. Nadeau, J. Vitali, N. Maynes, S. Hansen, T. Vassilev;
- Tenure: R. Hoffman, A. Adler

2. The Provost and Vice-President Academic and Research provided an electronic report that will be included as an attachment.

- The Provost congratulated all those who were successful in the tenure and promotion process.
- Extended a heartfelt invitation to attend convocation which is a significant event for students and encourage all to attend. Changes will be made to the platform with more ease for faculty to congratulate students.

3. NUSU Executive – Tyrel Somerville – See attached

4. Council of Ontario Universities (Academic Colleague) – G. McCann:

- Advised that everything is on hold due to upcoming elections; the ministries are just maintaining status quo.
- Main issue on the horizon is colleges becoming polytechnics. That would be a threat to us as there would be 8 more universities.

No reports were provided by:

- The Vice-President, Finance and Administration

- Board of Governors
- Alumni Advisory Board
- Indigenization Steering Committee

## 6. QUESTION PERIOD

Would the PVPAR provide the background and rationale for the creation of two (2) new teaching chairs?

The PVPAR provided the following response:

Our office has received applications and will consider them shortly. The program was discussed with Senate over the spring. The Nipissing Act is concerned about chairs being part of university structure. It would be concerning if we decided to be without chairs completely. No research chairs have gone through Senate before neither have Schulich chairs which are part of the previous chairs. It never occurred to me that the process would be any different.

Senator Tabachnick quoted the Act 22.2(a) that Senate may make recommendations.....we can work within the language of the act. He supports the teaching chairs positions but wonders about the process.

MOTION 1: Moved by D. Tabachnick, seconded by G. McCann that Senate support the creation of two (2) new teaching chairs. CARRIED

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

### SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MOTION 1: Moved by M. DeGagné, seconded by M. Tuncali that Senate receive the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated May 3, 2018.  
CARRIED

### BY-LAWS AND ELECTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

~~MOTION 1: That the Report of the By Laws and Elections Subcommittee meeting, dated May 14, 2018 be received.~~

Strike out Motion 1 as no report was received.

MOTION 2: Moved by N. Colborne, seconded by M. Tuncali that Senate approve Article 9.1 Senate Executive Committee be amended as outlined below:

Vote was called; results were 13 for and 12 against. Therefore the motion is defeated.

#### 9.1 Senate Executive Committee (EXEC)

##### (a) *Ex Officio Members:*

- (i) the President, ~~who shall be~~ (Chair);
- (ii) the PVPAR, or designate, ~~who shall be~~ (Vice-Chair);
- (iii) the ~~Academic~~-Deans, or their designates;
- (iv) the Speaker; and
- (v) the Deputy Speaker.

##### (b) *Members Elected by Faculty Council:*

- (i) one (1) tenured or tenure-track faculty Senator\*, from each faculty; and

- (ii) one (1) student Senator from the NUSU Executive.  
\*tenured faculty preferred
- (c) *Terms of Reference:*
  - (i) to call Senate meetings and prepare the agendas of Senate;
  - (ii) to approve Senate minutes for circulation prior to adoption;
  - (iii) to manage the workflow of Senate and its committee/subcommittees in order that business is carried out in an expeditious and timely fashion;
  - (iv) to ensure that Senate By-Laws are followed and that Senate decisions are properly recorded, transmitted and implemented;
  - (v) to consider, for approval and conveyance to Senate, reports and recommendations of the By-Laws & Elections Subcommittee and Honorary Degree Subcommittee;
  - (vi) when required, to exercise Senate's authority and act on Senate's behalf during the Senate summer recess period, with the understanding that all such actions shall be reported at the September meeting of Senate;
  - (vii) the Senate Executive may act on behalf of Senate when quorum of Senate cannot be established, or when the regularly scheduled Senate meeting is delayed, to deal with any urgent matter that is within the responsibility of Senate, with the understanding that all such actions will be reported at the next meeting of Senate;
  - (viii) to approve degree audits for all undergraduate students who have applied to graduate, and to recommend all candidates to Senate for the conferring of undergraduate degrees, diplomas and certificates;
  - (ix) meetings at which candidates for honorary degrees are discussed shall be conducted *in camera* and considered strictly confidential; and
  - (x) to deal with such other matters as may be assigned from time to time by Senate.

A lengthy discussion ensued with regards to the power of Senate Executive (viii) approving graduates in urgent situations. Other options were brought forward to consider in times such as those. Senate meetings should not be scheduled during reading week and if needed, an emergency meeting could be called. It was noted that Senate Executive does meet and make decisions that are reported back to Senate. A concern was brought forward to not leave Senate exposed that you may limit the power but not remove it.

MOTION 3: Moved by N. Colborn, seconded by M. Tuncali, that Senate approve the revisions to the membership of the Joint Standing Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance, as outlined below: CARRIED

- (a) *Ex Officio Members:*
  - (i) the President of the Nipissing University Student Union (NUSU) or Designate
- (b) Members Elected by Senate:
  - (i) three (3) **faculty** Senators ~~or non-Senators Elected by Senate, with at least one being a Senator~~
- (c) Members Elected by Board:
  - (i) three (3) **non-constituent** members of the Board of Governors, ~~Elected by the Board~~
- (d) *Terms of Reference:*
  - (i) to periodically review on at least an annual basis the governance structures and practices of the University to foster bicameral communication and collegiality and to recommend amendments to by-laws, practices or policies as may be advisable;
  - (ii) to establish and oversee a procedure for providing a joint orientation to new members of the Senate and Board as a means of promoting the effective governance of the university;

- (iii) to establish and oversee a statement on the importance of collegial governance at Nipissing;
- (iv) to address issues that may arise concerning a lack of civility and decorum in the conduct of the interaction of the Senate or Board and which cannot be satisfactorily addressed under the existing policies and bylaws of each, and to recommend amendments to by-laws, practices or policies as may be advisable; and
- (v) to oversee the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Governance Commission Report of October 27, 2016.

Notion of Motion: That the Senate approve the reordering of the Senate agenda to place “Reports from Other Bodies” ahead of “Question Period”

### **ACADEMIC QUALITY ASSURANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

MOTION 1: Moved by A. Vainio-Mattila, seconded M. Tuncali that the Report of the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee dated April 27, 2018, be received.  
CARRIED

MOTION 2: Moved by A. Vainio-Mattila, seconded M. Tuncal that Senate grant approval for Stage 2 BSc Honours Specialization and Specialization in Data Science, and BA Honours Specialization and Specilization in Data Science. CARRIED

Congratulate those who worked on this proposal. There is a lot of interest in the program moving forward. The first discussions on this were in 2005.

### **GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTE (GSC)**

MOTION 1: ~~That the Report of the Graduate Studies Committee Meeting, dated April 23, 2018 be received.~~

Strike the Motion as no report was received.

### **ELECTIONS**

Note of appreciation to the Faculties and Deans for the election of new Senators for the 2018-2021 term.

- Speaker of Senate – 2018 – 2020 (2 year term)
  - Nominate B. Hatt; Moved by N. Colborne, seconded by K. Srigley.
  - Moved by M. DeGagné, seconded by J. Allison that nominations cease
  - ACCLAIMED
- Deputy Speaker of Senate – 2018 – 2020 (2 year term)
  - Nominate N. Colborne; Moved by R. Gendron, seconded by G. McCann
  - Moved by K. Srigley, seconded by A. Burk that nominations cease
  - ACCLAIMED
- Alternate Academic Colleague (1 year term to cover sabbatical)
  - Nominate R. Gendron; Moved by J. Allison, seconded by C. Hachkowski
  - Moved by M. DeGagné, seconded by M. Tuncali that nominations cease
  - ACCLAIMED

### 8. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Senator Millar brought forward a motion that in consideration of the fact at the last Senate meeting, no organizational changes would happen until after July and that the creation and announcement of a new

Associate Dean Graduate Studies and Research be tabled until it can be presented and approved by Senate.

There was no seconder for the motion therefore the motion was defeated.

9. NEW BUSINESS

MOTION 1: That Senate approve and adopt the Nipissing Celebration Anthem dated May 3, 2018.

This motion was deferred to the next meeting of Senate.

MOTION 2: Moved by R. Gendron, seconded by D. Tabachnick that Senate consider receipt of Graduate Applications. CARRIED

MOTION 3: Moved by R. Gendron, seconded by K. Srigley to receive the Graduate Applications. CARRIED

MOTION 4: Moved by K. Srigley, seconded by A. Burk that Senate approved the Graduate Applications. CARRIED

IN-CAMERA

MOTION 1: Moved by M. DeGagne, seconded G. McCann that Senate move in-camera. CARRIED

MOTION 2: Moved by M. Tuncali, seconded by M. DeGagné that Senate move out of camera. CARRIED

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. ADJOURNMENT

Senate was adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

*Original signed by:*

.....  
M. DeGagné (Chair)

.....  
M. Storms (Acting Senate Secretary)