MEMBERS PRESENT: M. DeGagné (Chair), A. Vainio-Mattila, C. Sutton, J. McAuliffe, P. Maher, P. Radia, C. Richardson, D. Iafrate, N. Black


C. Irwin, O. Pokorny

B. Ray

H. Mackie, W. Loveday, M. King


C. Anyinam

E. Lougheed

S. Kidd

C. Foster, S. Pecoskie-Schweir

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA OF THE SENATE MEETING OF: May 8, 2020

MOTION 1: Moved by S. Srigley, seconded by J. Allison that the agenda of the Senate meeting of May 8, 2020 be approved.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SENATE MEETING OF: April 17, 2020

MOTION 2: Moved by N. Black, seconded by C. Hachkowski that the minutes of the Senate meeting of April 17, 2020 be adopted with revisions.

CARRIED
The Speaker opened the meeting with a welcome to the traditional territory:
As we begin this Nipissing University Senate meeting, I would like to acknowledge that we are in the territory of the Robinson-Huron Treaty of 1850 and that the land on which we gather is the Nipissing First Nation Traditional Territory and the traditional territory of the Anishnabek. We respect and are grateful to hold this event on these lands with all our relatives.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

In follow-up to concerns raised at the April 17, 2020 Senate meeting regarding non-substantive course revisions listed in the ACC report, the Registrar advised that meetings have taken place with faculty and ARCC to address the inconsistencies to determine what is defined as non-substantive. The definition in the By-Laws is not clear and the term has not been applied consistently. The By-Laws will be updated accordingly to clearly define what is considered substantive and non-substantive.

REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

The President began his report by advising that effective Monday of this week, the provincial government began allowing an expanded number of essential construction projects to resume operations. As a result, the construction of the Student Centre has recommenced. Although the building is closed, work continues in the institution, including COVID-19 updates to prepare us for the fall. Renovations on Nipissing’s new immersive classroom and major repairs on the A-wing elevator will also commence. Work is continuing with many meetings taking place by Zoom, and a new Dons program will take place this summer.

Communication from other universities has not been definitive, and an agreement has not been reached as to when a collective announcement will be made as to what will happen in the fall. We are looking at a phased in approach with a blend of online and as many in-class courses as the new norm will allow us to have.

The President advised that earlier this week, Nipissing University participated in Giving Tuesday Now, which is a global day of unity emphasizing opportunities to give back in ways that allow for social connection and kindness. In response, over $3,000 for the Student Emergency Fund and three donations to the Shelby Dickey Memorial Fund were received. The Student Emergency Fund has received over 330 applications from students, and to date, the fund has assisted over 290 students in areas such as income loss, housing and/or food insecurity and medical assistance. A special thank you goes out to all those who contributed to these very important causes.

The President presented the 2019-20 Annual Tenure and Promotion Report, and expressed his congratulations. The report is attached to the minutes.

The Provost’s report, including summaries from everyone on her team, was included in the Senate Agenda. Meetings have been held with the Deans and the Registrar to prepare for the fall term, and more specific plans will be shared with faculty, students and staff in the next few weeks. Preparations for offering online education is well underway for everyone. A survey of faculty members was distributed from the PVPAR’s Office to gauge faculty needs for PD and other supports in advance of the fall semester. Results were due May 4, and to date 65% of responses have been received. Ongoing workshops and training are being planned to correspond to the survey results, and run in line with external and internal resources available. Current and returning students were also surveyed to determine a more solid framework as to what is expected. The goal is to have an academic continuity plan for the fall. The Provost reminded everyone to complete the on-line security training course as phishing attacks are up 600%, and calendar invites are being used to hack accounts.

The Vice-President Finance and Administration advised that as of yesterday, the Student Emergency Fund had received 332 applications, and payments have been issued to 292 students totalling $101,500.
The majority of applicants are students in their first year. To demonstrate the impact this funding is having she read out two moving thank you notes received from students expressing their gratitude. As the Province begins to signal the reopening of business in Ontario, that VPFA advised that an Operational Readiness Committee has been struck. David Drenth will Chair the committee, and will work with a variety of departments to determine how the campus will open. A Budget update was provided. The Budget is nearing completion and will be presented on May 22 to Senate, May 25 to the Audit and Finance Committee and June 4 for approval at the Board of Governors.

Board of Governors Senate representative, Bobby Ray, was pleased to advise that the following Board officers were elected at the May 7th Board of Governors meeting: Marianne Berube, Board Chair; Karen Barnes, Vice-Chair; and Stuart Kidd, Vice-Chair, Pro-tem. He thanked Dr. Nathan Colborne for providing a valuable, well-articulated presentation on Bicameral Governance.

Council of Ontario Universities representative, Dr. Manuel Litalien, advised that a brief meeting of Academic Colleagues (April 23, 2020) was recently held with discussion focusing on pandemic concerns and models to adapt classes (on campus; all on-line; hybrid). As well, concerns on standards and quality, Wi-Fi access, hardware issues, inflation of grades and the provision of mental health services for students, faculty and staff were addressed. Discussion also included asymmetric learning, accreditation for long-distance learning, concerns for international exchange students' enrollment and LOU’s signed reflecting temporary measures due to the pandemic. Other topics discussed were emergency measures for Senate continuity; Senate meetings; handling convocations; research; workload; extensions for submitting grades; summer and fall enrolments; online program delivery; decisions for the fall term; additional student assessment methods; grading policies for winter 2020; budget planning; incoming secondary students who might not be prepared for first-year classes; requests by students for waived/reduced tuition; requests by faculty for additional pay; proctoring programs; and immunocompromised faculty concerns about returning to face-to-face teaching.

NUSU President, Hannah Mackie, provided a report. The report is attached to the minutes.

QUESTION PERIOD

In response to a question regarding the status of faculty hires, the Provost reported that the Political Science and Social Work hires have been completed, the Nursing hire is in progress, and the cluster hire of Indigenous scholars in various disciplines was somewhat delayed, but is now back on track. The EPS Dean search is ongoing and being chaired by the VPFA.

A question was asked of the VPFA whether the April 29th email regarding honorariums was the complete response to the questions raised in Senate about the honorarium policies. The VPFA replied that further inquiries about honorariums should be directed to the Director of Finance. A follow up question was asked about the discrepancies between the regular policy for honorariums and the honorarium policy for Elders and Indigenous Knowledge Keepers, specifically, why does the regular policy cap the honorarium at $500, but the policy for Elders and Indigenous Knowledge holders cannot exceed $350? The VPFA advised that this question will also be taken back for further discussion with the Director of Finance.

In response to a question asked regarding the number of students registered in online courses, and whether evidence based, informed research would determine the number of students in courses over the faculties, the Provost responded that this is the kind of information required for the continuity plan, and that other strategies are being investigated to offer a more intimate method of course delivery and support to offer courses as we are known for at NU. The Dean of Teaching advised that he has been reaching out to other comparator universities to discuss their policies and plans for the fall.
REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND FACULTY OR UNIVERSITY COUNCILS

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MOTION 3: Moved by M. DeGagné, seconded by S. Srigley that the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated April 30, 2020 be received.
CARRIED

ACADEMIC QUALITY ASSURANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE (AQAPC)

MOTION 4: Moved by A. Vainio-Mattila, seconded by H. Mackie that the Report of the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee dated April 24, 2020 be received.
CARRIED

MOTION 5: Moved by A. Vainio-Mattila, seconded by M. Litalien that Senate approve that Academic Calendar Policy 6.3 on readmission into the Bachelor of Education program be changed from:
6.3 Education
Students will be required to withdraw from the program if the second attempt at the failed course is unsuccessful. Students who are required to withdraw will not be considered for readmission until they have been out of the program for one year. Separate course offerings will not be available until the following academic year.
To:
6.3 Education
Students will be required to withdraw from the program if the second attempt at the failed course is unsuccessful. Students who are required to withdraw will not be considered for readmission. Separate course offerings will not be available until the following academic year.
In response to a request to provide the rationale for this change, the Dean of Education and Professional Studies replied that the existing policy required students to sit out for one year. A new province-wide policy allows students to transfer to another BEd program. If a student was unsuccessful at NU, they would not re-apply to NU.
CARRIED

MOTION 6: Moved by A. Vainio-Mattila, seconded by G. Raymer that Senate approve that the Graduate Faculty Membership categories be updated as outlined in the attached SGS Governance document.
In response to a request to provide clarification as to the motivation to make these changes, the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research advised that the changes provide more clarity and are outlined in detail in the attached SGS Governance document.
CARRIED

BY-LAWS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

MOTION 7: Moved by H. Mackie, seconded by N. Black that the Report of the By-Laws and Elections Committee dated March 12, 2020 be received.
CARRIED

SENATE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MOTION 8: Moved by H. Mackie, seconded by H. Zhu that the Report of the Senate Budget Advisory Committee dated April 22, 2020 be received.
CARRIED
AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

A Notice of Motion regarding proposed amendments to Senate By-Laws Article 1.1 General Definitions was sent to Senators by email for discussion at the May 22, 2020 Senate meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

CARRIED

CARRIED

MOTION 11: Moved by D. Iafrate, seconded by H. Mackie that Senate grant approval to graduate the students listed in the Report on Graduation Applicants dated May 6, 2020.
CARRIED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deans read out the June 2020 graduands by faculty and degree and congratulated the students and the faculty on their achievements. The summary report is attached to the minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

Senate was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

.............................................  .............................................
M. DeGagné (Chair)                S. Landriault (Senate Secretary)
**President’s Annual Tenure and Promotion Report**

**2019-20**

April 22, 2020

In accordance with the Tenure and Promotion Procedures of Nipissing University, I am forwarding this report to the May meeting of Senate and the next meeting of our Board of Governors for information.

Article 25.25 (a) of the Collective Agreement states that, “Every year by May 20, the President of the University will prepare a Report on Tenure and Promotion which will be appended to the September Senate agenda and submitted to the Board around the same time”. Article 25.25 (b) defines the dimensions of the report as follows:

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Applicants Awarded Tenure (Tenure & Promotion Process):

- Dr. Chris Greco
- Dr. Geoff Hartley
- Dr. Ali Hatef
- Dr. Benjamin Kelly
- Dr. Aaron Kociolek
- Dr. Cindy Peltier
- Dr. Alison Schinkel-Ivy

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Applicants Awarded Promotion to Associate Professor:

- Dr. Geoff Hartley
- Dr. Ali Hatef
- Dr. Benjamin Kelly
- Dr. Aaron Kociolek
- Dr. Denyse Lafrance-Horning
- Dr. Cindy Peltier
- Dr. Alison Schinkel-Ivy

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<th>PROMOTION TO PROFESSOR</th>
<th>Applications</th>
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Applicants Awarded Promotion to Professor (T&P Process):

- Dr. John Allison
- Dr. Jane Barker
- Dr. Jeff Dech
- Dr. April James
- Dr. Graydon Raymer
- Dr. Mark Wachowiak

No. of Applications heard by the University Review Appeals Committee: 0

No. of Grievances heard by the University Review Appeals Board: 0

No. of Job Candidates awarded Tenure upon appointment: 0

No. of Job Candidates awarded Promotion to Associate Professor or Professor upon appointment: 0
Update for Board of Governors 7th May 2020 & Senate 8th May 2020
Arja Vainio-Mattila

Registrar

- Our acceptances as of April 24th are 839 vs. 906 from the same time last year (-7.5%)
- June 1st is the deadline for Ontario High Schools to accept their offers
- all Ontario high schools have committed to submitting grades in May so that all universities can send offers prior to the June 1st deadline
- Admissions offers are all up to date and continue to be sent daily
- the recruitment team continues to focus on conversion, in collaboration with marketing, faculty and service areas they have developed a "virtual open house" for our prospective students
- we have sent all current & prospective students a survey to assess their concern during this pandemic and for the upcoming fall term
- Spring/Summer term started on May 4th and our current enrollment is:
  - Undergraduate = 3,938 students, vs. 4,104 (as of June 30th, 2019)
  - Graduate = 193 vs. 189 (as of June 30th, 2019)

Arts and Science

Arts and Science Spring and Summer online offerings: 38 online courses; enrolment: 1296 compared to 995 online enrolments in 19S/S.

Arts and Science Faculty Council (April 24; 76 participants in total; guests: Dr. Arja Vainio-Mattila (PVPAR); Debra Iafrate (Registrar); Dr. Carole Richardson (Dean of EPS); Dr. Jim McAuliffe (Dean of Graduate Studies and Research); and Dr. Pat Maher (Dean of Teaching and Learning); focus on COVID-19 updates & fall planning.

Fall Contingency Course Master planning

Other Updates
- BSc in Data Science proposal approved by QAC; next step: MCU approval
- Political Science search completed
- Cluster Hire search process to continue/selection process to begin
- IQAP Reviews
  - English: Stage 2: response from the Dept. (completed); the Dean’s response to follow
    Process has begun (external visits pending) for the following:
    - RLCT
    - CLAS
    - GESJ
    - HIST
- Ad Hoc Committees in progress; preliminary reports due May 30; (experiential learning, indigenizing the curriculum, community outreach, FYF, team-teaching, and faculty structures).
**Education and Professional Studies**

Due to COVID-19, the Ministry of Education and the Ontario College of Teachers have made legislative changes that will permit our Year 2 BEd students to graduate and to register with the College of Teachers. They will need to complete the Math Proficiency Test, but will now have until August 31, 2021 to do so. They will be permitted to register in Additional Qualifications before writing the MPT. Students who successfully wrote the MPT during the Field Test will not have to write it again.

We continue to work with CASN, CNO, and the various programs to ensure nursing students in their final semester can graduate. Faculty greetings have been sent to our students as many of our Blended students are frontline workers.

S/S courses get under way soon. The summer camps associated with the Schulich School of Education will not be offered this summer.

Congratulations to Dr. Tara-Lynn Scheffel on being named the next Elizabeth Thorn Chair in Literacy. Many thanks to Dr. Michelann Parr for her excellent work as Thorn Chair over the past three years.

The TT search in Nursing is underway.

**School of Graduate Studies**

- The School of Graduate Studies has conducted five (5) successful oral defences since COVID-19: three (3) Master’s level and two (2) PhD level.
- There are five (5) scheduled Master’s level defences taking place in May.
- The Zoom format has worked well for defences, and we’ve seen small audiences attend virtually as well.
- Most fall 2020 graduate student applicants have accepted admission offers. The expected Master’s intake is 50 students.
- Some Master’s programs are debating starting a waitlist, as faculty thesis supervision is reaching its maximum in some areas.
- Fall MEd flex-time applications are due on June 1st, so admissions are not yet finalized.
- There is a full PhD cohort of 10, and a program waitlist.
- All graduate funding has been awarded, including: 14 Ontario Graduate Scholarships, 3 SSHRC, 1 NSERC, 1 CIHR, 39 Graduate Assistantships, 39 Alumni Entrance Scholarships, 10 PhD Scholarships, and 17 NUGS awards.
- GSC is examining its policies. Currently the External Examiner Policy, Thesis Committee Membership, and Graduate Faculty Membership have been discussion points. Each policy is at a different stage of development.
- SGS is working with the Registrar’s Office to update the Graduate Studies portion of the Academic Calendar.
Research

- OCUR meeting continue weekly to plan for lab and field based research to resume.
- USRAs have been awarded, and are being processed for the summer of 2020.
- RA positions will continue to be offered for the summer of 2020, respecting social distancing protocols.
- Tri-Agency Grants from the 2019 fall competition have been awarded: two NSERC Discovery Grants and one SSHRC Insight Grant. The recipients will be publicly announced following the Innovation, Science and Industry Minister’s release.
- Two SSHRC Institutional Grants (SIG) from the 2020 winter competition were awarded.

Dean of Teaching

- The Teaching Hub has shared many webinars/external resources with our instructors through a variety of partners: the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE: keepteaching.ca), the Association for Experiential Education, Contact North, etc.
- Winter term exams were completed successfully.
- Spring term courses have all moved to online/remote/alternative delivery (these courses begin May 4th).
- Blackboard Ally has been turned on for all 20SS courses – this will now be a valuable accessibility tracking tool moving forward.
- Blackboard Learn hosting migration is now occurring with a confirmed black-out period of June 15-19 (20SS break week). Delayed from an April black out period.
- In consultation with many units, we chose not to opt-in to the MCU/eCampus Ontario eProctoring services for 20SS (having already decided that for FW). We will continue to use Lockdown Browser/Respondus Monitor for secure testing needs. Additional licences were purchased to cover 20SS needs.
- Teaching Chair applications have been received and are now being adjudicated.
- The Dean of Teaching is continuing to liaise with the Ontario University Council on eLearning (OUCeL).
- The Dean of Teaching was invited to join the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) online and alternative delivery working group.
- The Dean of Teaching became the Chair of the Council of 3M National Fellows for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (previously Vice-Chair; now holds this position until June 2021).
- The Dean of Teaching joined the Board of Directors for STLHE (1-year appointment ending in June 2021).
- A survey of faculty members was distributed from the PVPAR’s Office to gauge their needs for PD and other supports in advance of the Fall semester (results due May 4th).
- Ongoing workshops and training are being planned to correspond to survey results and in line with external and internal resources available.

Library

We continue to monitor voice and email and respond to library users with requests for assistance accessing materials and any other questions related to library use. We also continue our work at home on various projects and many usual tasks that we carry out.
Working with instructors to ensure that ways in which they use information resources in their online courses is copyright compliant; and working with instructors to plan for ways in which we can provide library support and instruction through the online courses.

Engaged in conversations and consultation with our colleagues throughout the province with respect to shared practices, services and resources and to plan and strategize ways in which those services can continue.

We have just reinstated Inter Library Loan Services on a limited basis. We will be able to provide some electronic resources to library users. While it is not the full Inter Library Loan Service, we will at least be able to provide some additional resources for library users.

**Office of Indigenous Initiatives**

- The Summer Indigenous Institute is a month-long summer pilot project with funding from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. The students enrolled in the program (up to 40) will attend Nipissing University, Algoma University, Lakehead University or Laurentian University in fall 2020. Additionally, we are opening this year’s program to Indigenous students in grades 11 or 12, mature learners or college students who are considering attending university in the future. The Summer Indigenous Institute offers two first-year Indigenous Studies courses, ample holistic supports, peer mentorship and cultural/experiential learning opportunities to support the transition to university. The framework for support programming is aligned with health and wellness and rooted in Indigenous knowledge. The Summer Indigenous Institute will move to hybrid delivery with remote, online learning and support services in summer 2020 followed by a capstone experience on campus in fall 2020. We will provide technology to all students enrolled in the program to support their access to online courses and support services. Indigenous student employees are currently being hired to work remotely in support of the students in the program.

- Enji giigodyang, the Office of Indigenous Initiatives, is providing emergency food vouchers remotely for students and their families and continuing to support Indigenous students remotely through outreach and communication including connecting students to services on campus and in the community.

- The Schulich School of Education will be offering the Indigenous Teacher Education Program and the Indigenous Classroom Assistant Diploma Program online. The program timelines for completion may be adjusted given this change. The Principal, Indigenous Programs, is also meeting with partners for community-based delivery of the Indigenous Teacher Education (Bimose Tribal Council - Kenora) and Indigenous Classroom Assistant Diploma Programs (MTIE - Mamu Tshishkutamahshutau/Innu Education – Labrador). Timelines and locations will be shifted for the programs in conversation with partners. Oshki Pimache-o-win: The Wenjack Institute (Thunder Bay) has made the decision to defer all Indigenous Classroom Assistant Diploma programming until next summer because of the uncertainty of when physical distancing guidelines will be lifted. They are not exploring online delivery of ICADP because of the many factors that may inhibit student participation living in remote, fly-in communities.
New Year
We are almost one week into our new year with our new team. We have spent the last month working with the incoming executives to prepare them for the year to come and provide them insights into the positions they now fill. We were sad to see Charlotte and Tayler leave the executive team, but are very excited to have Ward and Mykayla join us for the next year.

We have had many introductory meetings with various groups across the university, and most recently with the Nipissing Executive team where we discussed goals for this year and the best ways to continue the strong relationship we have. Should anyone want to have a meeting with the executives you can reach out to Rebecca at info@nusu.com to set that up.

COVID-19
The recent global pandemic has put students in some precarious and interesting situations. We have been doing our best to keep our ear to the ground to ensure that there is support for all of our students. We have participated in federal and provincial initiatives to speak out about student needs and the gaps that exist. Currently there is still a large lack of support for our international students across the province and country. These students are being left behind, so we are grateful for initiatives such as the student emergency fund provided by Nipissing that provides some support to these students. Thank you to all who have contributed to this fund.

Food Bank
Our food bank has continued to operate through this time, and one way we have tried to expand our reach to students outside of North Bay is by offering e-gift cards to students. Students are able to apply on nusu.com/grocery for a grocery store e-gift card. We are able to provide this service thanks to the financial support we have received from the Lakers and North Bay community.
To be discussed under Amendment of By-Laws in the May 8, 2020 Senate Agenda, for inclusion in the May 22, 2020 Senate Agenda:

AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

- Notice of Motion – Proposed amendments to Senate By-Laws Article 1.1 General Definitions

Rationale:
As the full time lab, seminar, and service course instructors are no longer members of CASBU, it was agreed that all references to CASBU be removed from the Senate By-Laws. The term, Librarian, was included in Article 1.1 General Definitions as referenced below. As this matter has been on-going for some time and with only two Senate meetings remaining, it was recommended that the amendment to Senate By-Laws Article 1.1 (r) be forwarded to Senators by email to be considered as a Notice of Motion under New Business in the May 8, 2020 Senate Agenda.

Current Article:

1.1 General Definitions

(r) “Faculty member” means a member of the teaching staff of the University who is eligible for active membership in FASBU or CASBU, and who holds either a full-time academic appointment at the rank of lecturer or above or a full-time appointment as a lab, seminar or service course instructor;

Revised Article:

1.1 General Definitions

(r) “Faculty member” means a member of the teaching or library staff of the University whose primary appointment and responsibility is either as a full-time faculty, librarian, lab, seminar or service course instructor;

Motion 1: That Senate approve that By-Laws Article 1.1 (r) be amended as outlined above.