

Nipissing University
Minutes of the Academic Senate Meeting

October 8, 2021

2:30 p.m.

Zoom Videoconference

Members Present:

K. Wamsley (Chair), A. Vainio-Mattila, C. Sutton, P. Maher,
J. Nadeau, D. Iafrate, N. Black

A. Burk, D. Campbell, N. Colborne (Speaker), S. Connor,
J. Dech, H. Earl, R. Gendron, L. Hoehn, K. Lucas, C.
McFarlane, G. Phillips, S. Renshaw, S. Srigley, M. Tuncali,
R. Vernescu, S. Winters

J. Allison, C. Anyinam, A. Armenakyan, G. Brown, B.
Elliott, K. Ferguson, C. Greco, R. Hoffman, A. Kociolek, T.
McParland, J. Muterera, L. Peachey, P. Ravi, A. Schinkel-
Ivy, T. Sibbald, A. Wagner

O. Pokorny

J. Smith, K. Wilcox

A. Parolin

J. McIntosh, S. Pecoskie-Schweir, E. Wilson, M. Fichaud

Absent With Regrets:

J. McAuliffe, P. Radia

A. Hatef, M. Litalien, J. Murton, M. Saari

G. Raymer

C. Irwin

M. Murray

Approval of the Agenda of the Senate Meeting of: October 8, 2021

Motion 1: Moved by N. Black, seconded by S. Winters that the agenda of the Senate meeting of October 8, 2021 be approved.
Carried

Adoption of the Minutes of the Senate Meeting of: September 10, 2021

Motion 2: Moved by A. Wagner, seconded by C. McFarlane that the minutes of the Senate meeting of September 10, 2021 be adopted.
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 response to questions raised regarding the Board pension plan presentation, the Board of Governors' Senate representative advised that the Pension and Benefits Advisory Committee has been invited to send a representative to the next meeting of the Board's Executive Committee and all non-employee members of the Board have been invited to attend.

Reports From Other Bodies

The President highlighted a number of ongoing activities, including regular meetings with departments both on and off campus. He advised that meetings would continue until he has had an opportunity to meet with everyone. He acknowledged September 30 as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and was pleased to participate in events held on campus as well as at Nipissing First Nation and City Hall. He advised of the Board Retreat planned for November, where a workshop on long and short-term sustainability will be held. The President concluded his remarks by requesting that everyone be on the lookout for students, staff and faculty that may be struggling due to increased levels of stress, anxiety and depression since the beginning of the pandemic. He reminded of the importance of prioritizing mental health and taking time to charge up again.

The Provost and Vice-President Academic and Research provided a report. The report is attached to the minutes.

The Vice-President Finance and Administration provided a report. The report is attached to the minutes. In response to a question regarding the Good Neighbour Committee and whether reports would be made available to the public, the VPFA advised that she would investigate this request and report back at the next Senate meeting.

The Board of Governors' Senate representative, Kathy Wilcox, reported that the first meeting of the Board of Governors was held on September 16. The Board heard a presentation from auditors KPMG and afterwards the Board of Governors passed a motion to accept the recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee to approve the Consolidated Audited Financial Statements for the year ended April 30, 2021, as presented.

The Alumni Advisory Board representative, Andrea Parolin, provided a report. The report is attached to the minutes.

The Council of Ontario Universities Academic Colleague, Darren Campbell, advised that the role of the university will be discussed and developed at the next COU meeting. He requested that Senators share their ideas, input and experiences by email to darrenc@nipissingu.ca

The first meeting of the Joint Board/Senate Committee on Governance will be held on November 1.

The NUSU VP Advocacy and Awareness provided a report. The report is attached to the minutes.

Question Period

Following discussion as to how Senate meetings could be more effective and provide further time for academic Senate matters, suggestions included streamlining and scheduling reports from the President, PVPAR and VPFA, regular meetings and/or email communication with faculty, staff and students to share information, providing a place on the website or the intranet for reports to be shared, reinstating the everybody email, and reducing the number of Senators on committees so that more non-Senators can participate.

The President and the Speaker advised that these matters had been discussed at recent Senate Executive and By-Laws and Elections Committee meetings and discussion will continue until the right forum and information to be shared can be found that works for everyone.

Reports of Standing Committees and Faculty or University Councils

Senate Executive Committee

Motion 3: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by C. McFarlane that the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated September 28, 2021 be received.
Carried

Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee (AQAPC)

Motion 4: Moved by A. Vainio-Mattila, seconded by N. Black that the Report of the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee dated September 17, 2021 be received.
Carried

Amendment of By-Laws

Moved by T. Sibbald, seconded by N. Black that Senate By-Laws, Article 2.4(b) Faculty Senators, be amended as outlined below:

- 2.4 (b) There shall be three (3) designated faculty Senate positions, as follows:
- i) two (2) faculty Senators elected by and from the full-time lab, seminar, and service course instructors (North Bay), hereafter referred to as "instructor positions".
 - ii) one (1) designated librarian Senate position elected by and from the academic librarians, hereafter referred to as "librarian positions."
- Carried

Elections

- Elect one (1) A&S faculty Senate representative to serve on the Academic Awards, Appeals and Petitions Committee for a three-year term effective July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024. *No nominations were received. The election will be included in the November 12, 2021 Senate agenda.*
- Elect one (1) EPS faculty Senate representative to serve on the By-laws and Elections Committee for a three-year term effective July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024. *No nominations were received. The election will be included in the November 12, 2021 Senate agenda.*
- Elect four (4) tenured faculty members, with at least one from each faculty, to be elected by Senate for the Committee for the Search/Appointment/Reappointment

of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic and Research. The following five (5) tenured faculty members were nominated:

J. Allison

G. Brown

C. Greco

G. Phillips

S. Srigley

We were unable to conduct elections at this meeting, so information will be emailed to Senators to vote anonymously.

New Business

Motion 5: Moved by D. Iafrate, seconded by N. Black that Senate consider receipt of the Graduation Applicants dated September 29, 2021.
Carried

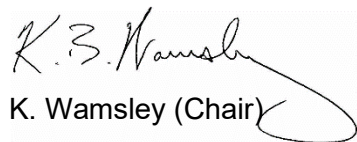
Motion 6: Moved by D. Iafrate, seconded by C. McFarlane that Senate receive the Report of Graduation Applicants dated September 29, 2021.
Carried

Motion 7: Moved by D. Iafrate, seconded by N. Black that Senate grant approval to graduate the students listed in the Report on Graduation Applicants dated September 29, 2021.
Carried

The Deans read out the graduands by faculty and degree and congratulated the students and faculty on their achievements.

Adjournment

Senate was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.


K. Wamsley (Chair)


S. Landriault (Senate Secretary)

Senate Report - October 8th 2021
Arja Vainio-Mattila, Provost & VP Academic and Research

- Academic planning: During September and October I am scheduled to meet with all academic programmes. So far, I have met with fifteen of them. These conversations will inform the Strategic Academic Planning process. The 2017-2022 Academic Plan expires at the end of this academic year and will be replaced by another five-year plan. The current plan has the following pillars:

1. Increase student enrolment
2. Improve student retention, engagement, student success and degree completion
3. Strengthen the University's Indigenous mandate
4. Strengthen the University's research culture
5. Build a culture of teaching excellence, pedagogic research, and inquiry

A call will go out early next week through the Deans to invite participation in a Strategic Academic Planning Working Group. It will have three faculty members from each Faculty, but not members of AQAPC who will be part of the approval process.

- Transition to class: It is important to note that our students, especially 1st year students, have had a very challenging lead to their university studies. Many have not been in a classroom learning environment for two years. I appreciate the support provided to the students by their professors, as well as all the staff who have helped with keeping health and safety of all as a guiding principle.

- Fall Open House will take place on November 6th and information has gone out to the Chairs/Directors.

- This is a busy year with Quality Assurance as COVID-19 delayed a couple of processes that had started earlier. Currently the following IQAPs are under process: Gender Equality and Social Justice, Religions and Cultures, Social Welfare and Social Development, Biology, Computer Science, and Mathematics.

Also, wishing all the best to colleagues in Nursing as they have CASN accreditation in two weeks.

Report to the Academic Senate
Vice-President, Finance & Administration
Dated: October 8, 2021

- Virtual Homecoming will take place November 8-12, 2021. The celebration will include a mix of live streamed and on-demand events including: an online art exhibition featuring student, faculty and alumni art, a fireside chat with President Wamsley, Junior Lakers KidZone activities, Lakers athletics games and more! More events are still being added. Visit nipissingu.ca/homecoming for details.
- We continue to work through the complexities of our Mandatory Vaccination Policy and I would like to thank the Human Resources department for their effort in this. Also, a reminder that after October 29, all individuals attending campus will be required to provide proof of vaccination. More details on that process will be forthcoming.
- Virtual Open House will take place on November 6. Students can register at nipissingu.ca/openhouse
- External Relations partnered with Admissions in the Registrar's office to move the applicant acknowledgement package to a digital format this year.
- The Good Neighbour Committee has begun meeting regularly again. The group includes representation from Nipissing University, Canadore College, the City of North Bay (including the Fire Department), Near North Landlords Association, North Bay Police Services and residents-at-large. Colin Thacker, resident-at-large, was elected as the chair of the committee at the most recent meeting. The mandate of the group is to develop and enhance relationships, communications, and policies among the university, college, students, the city, police and the greater North Bay community.



Alumni Report to Senate

Homecoming

We are busy in the alumni office getting ready for our first ever virtual Homecoming! Events will be a combination of on-demand and live. We have something for everyone this year including athletic events, an online art exhibition, fireside chat with President Wamsley and a keynote event with alumnus and Paralympian Rob Shaw.

For more information and a schedule of events please visit nipissingu.ca/Homecoming. The page is updated regularly and will have more details as Homecoming gets closer.

Alumni Awards

The NUAAB is excited to announce the recipients of the 2021 Alumni Awards in near future. We are in the process of notifying the winners and will be featuring the 5 individuals in December through our communications channels and on the website. Stay tuned for more information!

Graduation Photography

LifeTouch, our official graduation photographer, will be on campus November 29 to December 10 to photograph students and new grads this semester. More opportunities for on-campus photography will take place in January and March of next year. Please visit nipissingu.ca/graduationphotos for more information.

Academic Senate Report **October 8th, 2021**

Community Clean-Up

Thank you to the Men's Volleyball Team, Women's Basketball Team, Women's Hockey Team, President Wamsley and the Nipissing University Alumni Advisory Board for participating in our community cleanup on Saturday October 2nd. Despite the rain, our Lakers came out in full force! We are always appreciative of how amazing our students are.

By-Elections

NUSU held their by-elections in September. We would like to welcome Montana Taylor who is the new VP Finance and Administration, and Harikesh Panchal who is the new Director-at-Large. Once Montana has been ratified at our AGM, she will be joining the Academic Senate as one of NUSU's voting members.

Orange Shirt Day

Thank you to the Office of Indigenous Initiatives for organizing the Orange Shirt Day Candlelight Vigil. Despite the Government of Canada making the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation a federal holiday, it doesn't mean that we only remember, observe or work on reconciliation for one day a year. Reconciliation is ongoing and as a student union and an educational institution, we need to be held accountable for our words and actions.

Plant Sale

This week NUSU held a plant sale in which all the proceeds go to the Student Food Bank. We were able to raise close to \$1100. Thank you to everyone who donated to this fundraiser.

Our food bank is now located at our Student Centre and is open Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm.

Academic Week

NUSU will be hosting a virtual Academic Week from October 25th to October 29th. We have been working with numerous offices and will be sending out further information after reading week.

Building Update

The NUSU Student Centre officially opened to Nipissing students, staff and faculty on September 20th. For those who have been unable to visit, our hours of operation are Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm. You can also go to nusu.com/studentcentre to view our virtual tour. We have been following the Nipissing COVID protocols and using the Nipissing Safe App. It has been wonderful to see students using our space.

On November 23rd, 25th, 29th and December 1st we will host our Night Owl Study Sessions and will be extending our hours to midnight for students. We have been in contact with numerous departments regarding this and will be collaborating to ensure our students get the support they need for their exams and the end of term.