

**Nipissing University**  
**Minutes of the Academic Senate Meeting**

**April 8, 2022**

**2:30 p.m.**

**Zoom Videoconference**

**Members Present:**

C. Richardson (Vice-Chair), C. Sutton, J. McAuliffe, J. Nadeau, P. Radia, D. Iafrate, N. Black

D. Campbell, N. Colborne (Speaker), J. Dech, H. Earl, R. Gendron, L. Hoehn, M. Litalien, J. Murton, G. Phillips, S. Renshaw, M. Saari, S. Srigley, T. Stewart, M. Tuncali, R. Vernescu, S. Winters

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

C. Irwin, O. Pokorny, L. Sinclair

K. Wilcox

S. Smits

J. McIntosh, S. Pecoskie-Schweir, M. Taylor, M. Murray

**Absent With Regrets:**

K. Wamsley, P. Maher

S. Connor, A. Hatef, K. Lucas, C. McFarlane

J. Smith

R. Hoffman, L. Peachey, A. Wagner

E. Wilson, M. Fichaud

**Approval of the Agenda of the Senate Meeting of: April 8, 2022**

Motion 1: Moved by S. Pecoskie-Schweir, seconded by T. Sibbald that the agenda of the Senate meeting of April 8, 2022 be approved.  
Carried

**Adoption of the Minutes of the Senate Meeting of: March 11, 2022**

Motion 2: Moved by J. Allison, seconded by J. Muterera that the minutes of the Senate meeting of March 11, 2022 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 relations.

### **Business Arising From the Minutes**

In response to a question regarding our holdings in University investments, the VPFA advised that RBC PH&N has confirmed that Nipissing University has no direct investments in Russia.

### **Reports From Other Bodies**

The Vice-President Finance and Administration provided a report. She advised that universities across Ontario are making announcements about pausing or suspending their vaccination and masking policies, as well as their active screening policies. Changes that may be made at the end of the winter term are currently being discussed, and information on our next steps will be shared in the coming days.

She reported that work on the 2022/23 budget continues, and the budget will be presented to the Audit & Finance Committee during the first week of May. She advised that it has been a difficult budget process and extended her sincere gratitude to everyone that has engaged in it.

The VPFA thanked the team in the Office of Indigenous Initiatives for their invitation to attend the Indigenous Graduation Ceremony held on April 7. She noted how inspiring it was to see yet another group of students celebrating their accomplishments and moving on to the next stage in their growth.

In follow up to a question raised concerning an email sent by OPSEU to its members, the VPFA advised that she had not personally seen the email in question. She noted that as per the University's obligation under Article 11 of the OPSEU Collective Agreement, OPSEU was provided notice. She indicated that from her perspective, the impact to employees of discussions with OPSEU regarding Article 11 will be limited.

In response to a question as to whether funding would be received from the province, the VPFA advised that an application for COVID funding was made again this year and we were very disappointed to hear from the province that no COVID funding will be received for the 2021/22 year. \$1 million in additional funding was received for the 2022/23 year. She also advised that to date, we have not received a response from the Ministry regarding our corridor or the Northern Grant.

The Manager of Alumni and Advancement, Steven Smits, provided a report. The report is attached to the minutes.

The Council of Ontario Universities Academic Colleague, Dr. Darren Campbell, provided a report, advising that various Colonization and Indigenization (C&I) presentations and discussions were discussed at the Academic Colleagues COU meetings on April 5 & 6, 2022 and the full Council meeting on April 8, 2022. The C&I issues related to Land/Resource allocation, Racism & Ideology, Historical and Ongoing Inequities, and Intergenerational Impact, among others. Specific educational modifications focused on what content is taught, how content is taught, who teaches it, expanding upon world views (ontologies) and valid ways of knowing (epistemologies), and enhancing respect and understanding. The report is attached to the minutes.

The NUSU Vice-President, Advocacy and Awareness, Sarah Pecoskie-Schweir, provided a report. The report is attached to the minutes.

### **Question Period**

In response to a question raised at previous Senate meetings as to whether a decision has been made to reintroduce communication via group emails to faculty, the VPFA advised that discussions have been held but a final decision has not been made. The solution must balance access and the ability for quick communication amongst groups within the University, while keeping in mind the respectful workplace concerns that have been brought up in the past. She anticipates that further information will be provided at the next Senate meeting.

Questions were raised regarding an email received from the Dean of Education and Professional Studies informing that the Criminal Justice Advisor/Placement Officer position was abolished, and the staff member was dismissed. No explanation was provided as to who would oversee student placements or the other duties this individual performed. Concerns were expressed regarding the lack of consultation, and whether this is indicative as to how decision making is going to be made in the future without any consultation with faculty members whose delivery of courses and programs is directly affected by these types of decisions. The Provost advised that she is unable to speak to a specific position as this is an HR matter, but she reported that she and the Dean will meet with members of the department to advise how the various tasks associated with this position will be managed.

Concerns were expressed that the 2014/15 bargaining year is being repeated with the elimination of positions and shrinking the University. The VPFA advised that the University has posted deficits for the past 8 years, except for the year the Bracebridge campus was sold. A variety of initiatives have been taken to sustain the University and we are not in the same situation we were in back then. The continued deficits are not related with bargaining. We have all been given the role of balancing the budget and we are working towards that, but it includes difficult decisions. In 2014, significant reductions took place, and our administrative team was reduced by 30%. We are not looking at that, but we have a structural deficit to contend with and we are loathe to reduce positions. All positions are being reviewed, but this does not mean that significant changes will be made to our workforce. We are investing in our sustainability initiative and new positions have been created. Positions are being reviewed and this takes a lot of time, which is why the presentation to the Audit and Finance Committee has been delayed.

In response to a question as to whether there is a plan if the budget is not balanced as per the motion passed by the Board, the VPFA advised that she can't speak on behalf of the Board or the President, but the budget will be presented to the Board where risks of any further reductions or decisions will be discussed. A great deal of work will take place in the next few weeks and some serious and thoughtful discussions will occur.

In follow up to a question asked at the last Senate meeting, it was noted that the President's response at that Senate meeting was that we don't want to cut any more positions until we undergo our strategic plan because in the past we cut too much and we had to re-hire. Has something changed in the last month or has there been some new information that has pushed us towards eliminating positions? The VPFA advised that as a matter of regular business we look across universities at the resources assigned to drive departments and we do make changes in those resource allocations from time to time. The Board has directed us to balance the budget and we recognize that 70% or more of expenses are salary related. We also know that departments are understaffed, and we don't want further reductions. That is the balance we are working through now. She echoed the President's desire to not cut positions and supports this sentiment.

Further concern was expressed that making cuts to positions without having undergone an assessment and acting without a strategic plan, that decisions will be made without realizing the consequences. What has prompted this inability to wait? The VPFA informed that we know now that we won't receive any COVID funding for 2021/22, and the situation is no different then it was at the end of last year. The deficit for this year has been projected since February. Once the strategic plan has been completed, we will have a much better road map. We are doing the best we can without it, and again it is a balance.

In response to a question regarding how the cuts and reductions will affect the services that students require, especially the plan to expand international students, the VPFA advised that the University has a long history of investing in the student experience, and we recognize that one of the reasons students come to NU is because of the student experience. Reductions to student services are not anticipated at this time.

In response to a request for an update on international student enrolment and our internationalization plan, the Registrar advised that the International Recruitment & Admissions Manager and team now reports to the Registrar. International student recruitment is a priority and a focus for the upcoming year. The Manager will be travelling to India, and will be working with the faculties researching the demand in international markets and where programs could be created to meet the demands. Work is in progress on the September and January intakes.

## **Reports of Standing Committees and Faculty or University Councils**

### **Senate Executive Committee**

Motion 3: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by T. McParland that the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated March 31, 2022 be received.  
Carried

### **Academic Curriculum Committee**

Motion 4: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by P. Radia that the Report of the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee dated March 9, 2022 be received.  
Carried

### **Faculty of Arts and Science**

#### **Biology**

Motion 5: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by J. Dech that Senate consider Motions 6 to 20 as an omnibus Motion.

Motion 6: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by J. Dech that Senate approve Motions 6 to 20 as an omnibus Motion.

Motion 7: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by J. Dech that Senate approve the creation of BIOL-1022 Concepts in Anatomy and Physiology as outlined in the attached document.

Motion 8: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by J. Dech that Senate approve the creation of BIOL-2006 Fundamental Microbiology as outlined in the attached document.

Motion 9: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by J. Dech that Senate approve the hours of BIOL-2116 Principles of Microbiology be changed as outlined in the attached document.

**Non-Substantive**

The revision of the course description for BIOL-2116 Principles of Microbiology as outlined in the attached document.

Motion 10: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by J. Dech that Senate approve the creation of learning outcomes for BIOL-2116 Principles of Microbiology as outlined in the attached document.

Motion 11: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by J. Dech that Senate approve the restrictions for BIOL-2116 Principles of Microbiology be revised as outlined in the attached document.

Motion 12: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by J. Dech that Senate approve the antirequisite for BIOL-2116 Principles of Microbiology as outlined in the attached document.

**Non-Substantive**

The revision of the course description for BIOL-3837 Mammalogy as outlined in attached document.

Motion 13: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by J. Dech that Senate approve the creation of learning outcomes for BIOL-3837 Mammalogy as outlined in the attached document.

**Non-Substantive**

The revision of the course description for BIOL-1011 Introduction to Molecular and Cell Biology for Nursing as outlined in attached document.

**Non-Substantive**

The revision of the course description for BIOL-1006 Introduction to Molecular and Cell Biology as outlined in attached document.

Motion 14: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by J. Dech that Senate approve the creation of learning outcomes for BIOL-1011 Introduction to Molecular and Cell Biology for Nursing as outlined in the attached document.

**Non-Substantive**

The course title for BIOL-1011 be changed from Introduction to Molecular and Cell Biology for Nursing to Human Biology and Biochemistry as outlined in attached document.

**Non-Substantive**

The revision of the course description for BIOL-2446: Principles of Ecology as outlined in attached document.

Motion 15: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by J. Dech that Senate approve the creation of learning outcomes for BIOL-2446: Principles of Ecology as outlined in the attached document.

**Non-Substantive**

The revision of the course description for BIOL-3397: Introductory Soil Science as outlined in attached document.

Motion 16: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by J. Dech that Senate approve the creation of learning outcomes for BIOL-3397: Introductory Soil Science as outlined in the attached document.

**Non-Substantive**

The revision of the course description for BIOL-3436: Conservation Biology as outlined in attached document.

Motion 17: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by J. Dech that Senate approve the creation of learning outcomes for BIOL-3436: Conservation Biology as outlined in the attached document.

Motion 18: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by J. Dech that Senate approve the creation of learning outcomes for BIOL-4995: Thesis as outlined in the attached document.

Motion 19: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by J. Dech that Senate approve the creation of BIOL-4507 Special Topics in Molecular and Cell Biology as outlined in the attached document.

Motion 20: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by J. Dech that Senate approve the creation of BIOL-4606 Climate Change Biology Seminar as outlined in the attached document. Motions 6-20, as omnibus, Carried

Motion 21: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by J. Dech that Senate approve the deletion of ENSC-1005: Introduction to Environmental Science. Carried

Motion 22: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by P. Radia that Senate approve the creation of ENSC-1006: Introduction to Environmental Science Part 1 as outlined in the attached document. Carried

Motion 23: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by P. Radia that Senate approve the creation of ENSC-1007: Introduction to Environmental Science Part 2 as outlined in the attached document. Carried

**English**

**Non-Substantive**

The course title for ENGL-2257 be changed from Hyphenated-Canadians: Canadian Literature After 1914 to Contemporary Canadian Literature as outlined in attached document.

**Non-Substantive**

The course title for ENGL-2256 be changed from Double Agents: Canadian Literature before 1914 to Early Canadian Literature as outlined in attached document.

**Non-Substantive**

That ENGL-2002: Culture in Crisis be unbanked as outlined in attached document.

**Fine Arts and Performing Arts**

Motion 24 : Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by P. Radia that Senate consider Motions 25 to 35 as an omnibus Motion. Carried

- Motion 25 : Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by P. Radia that Senate approve Motions 25 to 35 as an omnibus Motion.
- Motion 26: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by P. Radia that Senate approve the creation of FAVA-3236 Advanced 2D Studio as outlined in the attached document.
- Motion 27: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by P. Radia that Senate approve the creation of FAVA-3336 Advanced 3D Studio and Expanded Media as outlined in the attached document.
- Motion 28: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by P. Radia that Senate approve the creation of FAVA-3356 Curation and Museology as outlined in the attached document.
- Motion 29: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by P. Radia that Senate approve the creation of FAVA-4116 Independent Study in Art History and Visual Studies as outlined in the attached document.
- Motion 30: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by P. Radia that Senate approve the program requirements for the Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) be changed as outlined in the attached document.
- Motion 31: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by P. Radia that Senate approve the degree requirements for the Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) be changed as outlined in the attached document.
- Motion 32: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by P. Radia that Senate approve the program requirements for the Bachelor of Arts Specialization in Fine Arts be changed as outlined in the attached document.
- Motion 33: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by P. Radia that Senate approve the program requirements for the Bachelor of Arts Major in Fine Arts be changed as outlined in the attached document.

**Non-Substantive**

The following FAVA courses be banked: FAVA 1027 Studio Art: Ideas and Practices; FAVA 3096 Drawing: Contemporary Approaches; FAVA 3056 Advanced Painting; FAVA 3137 Mixed Print Media; FAVA 3147 Extended Sculpture Practice; FAVA 3156 Explorations in Digital Media; FAVA 3046 Critical Theories of Art History and Visual Studies; FAVA 4066 Issues in Curation and Museum Representation

- Motion 34: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by P. Radia that Senate approve FAVA-3346 Theoretical Issues in Contemporary Art be unbanked.

**Non-Substantive**

The course title for FAVA-3346 be changed from Theoretical Issues in Contemporary Art to Contemporary Art as outlined in attached document.

**Non-Substantive**

The course title for FAVA-2506 be changed from Figure Study to Artistic Anatomy and that the course description be revised as outlined in attached document.

- Motion 35: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by P. Radia that Senate approve the program requirements for the Minor in Film be changed as outlined in the attached document.  
Motions 25-35, as omnibus, Carried

**Non-Substantive**

The prerequisite for FILM-2006 World Cinema, FILM-2106 Popular Spectacle Cinema, FILM-2206 Canadian Films, and FILM-2316 The Animated Feature be changed as outlined in attached document.

**Non-Substantive**

The course title for FILM-2316 be changed from The Animated Feature to Animated Films.

**Geography****Non-Substantive**

The course title for GEOG-4106 be changed from Terrain Analysis to Geomorphic Analysis of Landscapes as outlined in attached document.

**Non-Substantive**

The prerequisite(s) for GEOG-4106 Geomorphic Analysis of Landscapes be changed as outlined in attached document.

**Non-Substantive**

The prerequisite for GEOG-4237 Urban Health be changed as outlined in attached document.

**Non-Substantive**

The antirequisite for GEOG-3236 Environment and Health be removed as outlined in attached document.

**Non-Substantive**

The antirequisite for GEOG-3316 Geography of Health and Health Care be removed as outlined in attached document.

Motion 36: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by P. Radia that Senate approve the requirements for the Certificate of Environmental Management be changed as outlined in the attached document.  
Carried

Motion 37: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by P. Radia that Senate approve the addition of a Note for the Certificate of Environmental Management as outlined in the attached document.  
Carried

Motion 38: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by P. Radia that Senate approve the deletion of the Note for the Certificate in Environmental Management as outlined in the attached document.  
Carried

**Math and Computer Science**

Motion 39: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by M. Tuncali that Senate consider Motions 40 to 46 as an omnibus Motion.  
Carried

Motion 40: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by N. Black that Senate approve Motions 40 to 46 as an omnibus Motion.

Motion 41: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by N. Black that Senate approve the creation of COSC-3106, Human-Computer Interaction as outlined in the attached document.



- Motion 42: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by N. Black that Senate approve the deletion of COSC-4106 Human Computer Interaction.
- Motion 43: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by N. Black that Senate approve the creation of DIGI-2016 Contemporary Digital Humanities as outlined in the attached document.
- Motion 44: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by N. Black that Senate approve the creation of DIGI-2316 Digital Humanities Techniques I as outlined in the attached document.
- Motion 45: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by N. Black that Senate approve the creation of DIGI-3107 Digital Humanities Techniques II, as outlined in the attached document.
- Motion 46: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by N. Black that Senate approve that DIGI-2016 Contemporary Digital Humanities, DIGI-3107 Digital Humanities Techniques II, and DIGI-2316 Digital Humanities Techniques I be added as electives for the Certificate in Digital Humanities.  
Motions 40-46, as omnibus, Carried

### **Psychology**

- Motion 47: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by P. Radia that Senate approve the removal of PSYC-3357 Design and Analysis II as a degree requirement for the BSc Honours Specialization in Psychology as outlined in the attached document.  
Carried

### **Economics**

- Motion 48: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by P. Radia that Senate approve the creation of ECON-3036 Behavioural Economics as outlined in the attached document.  
Carried
- Motion 49: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by T. Stewart that Senate approve the creation of ECON-2136 Sports Economics as outlined in the attached document.  
Carried

### **Banking and Deleting Courses**

#### **For Information Only:**

The attached listing of courses (Courses Banked) were not offered in the past five calendar years and will be banked by the Registrar's Office.

The attached listing of banked courses (Courses Deleted) were not offered in the past ten calendar years and will be deleted by the Registrar's Office.

### **Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee (AQAPC)**

- Motion 50: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by J. Nadeau that the Report of the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee dated March 18, 2022 be received.  
Carried
- Motion 51: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by G. Brown that Senate approve the attached Criminology and Criminal Justice IQAP 2-Year Follow-up Report.  
Carried

Motion 52: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by N. Black that Senate approve the attached Graduate Studies Oral Defence Examination Regulation.  
Withdrawn

**Research Committee**

Motion 53: Moved by J. McAuliffe, seconded by M. Saari that the Report of the Research Committee dated March 31, 2022 be received.  
Carried

**Teaching and Learning Committee**

Motion 54: Moved by G. Raymer, seconded by K. Wilcox that the Report of the Teaching and Learning Committee dated February 16, 2022 be received.  
Carried

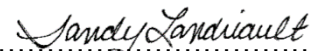
**New Business**

The NUSU Senator and VP Advocacy & Awareness informed that this past year NUSU has had a placement student from the Social Welfare program working in their Student Foodbank. The student produced several reports, including how to raise more funds, how to fight the stigma of using the foodbank and increased engagement, as well as an information sheet that outlines the services that NUSU offers, i.e.: Student Foodbank, free income tax filing, etc. A request was made for Senators' feedback regarding including the information sheet as supplemental information when faculty distribute their course syllabus or post it on their Blackboard shells, at the beginning of each semester. Feedback included, including the information sheet as a preloaded PDF document in the Blackboard shell, posting a statement that could be cut and pasted into the syllabus saying it is an announcement from NUSU, and including information on student services the University offers. Several Senators advised that they supported the idea. The Provost advised that she would work with NUSU to ensure that faculty have access to this information, and they can choose how to use it.

**Adjournment**

Senate was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

  
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C. Richardson (Vice-Chair)

  
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S. Landriault (Senate Secretary)



## **Alumni Report – April 2022**

### **NUAAB**

The NUAAB met in March with Dr. Wamsley at their general meeting. He shared some of his goals for alumni engagement over the next year which include reintroducing Alumni Chapters in various key cities. NUAAB will be hosting an informal event with selected alumni at the end of April to make connections and strengthen alumni relationships in the Toronto area.

### **NU Café**

Brought to you by Ten Thousand Coffees and supported by our friends at RBC FutureLaunch, the NU Café is an excellent way for members of the Nipissing community to gain support at every stage of their career journey. We are proud to report we have received funding from RBC FutureLaunch to continue this program until June 2023.

If you haven't joined, now is a great time to come and see what we have to offer. The next round of introductions begins April 5, 2022. Sign up or learn more [here](#).

## **COU Executive Committee Report** – 6 April 2022

The Executive Committee met on Friday, March 25 and discussed three items:

1) The request by the Northern Ontario School of Medicine and l'Université de Hearst for COU membership. Steve Orsini provided some background information about the request, indicating that neither institution currently meets the criteria for COU membership as outlined in the COU Constitution. That said, given that both institutions currently benefit from COU shared services through the universities with which they have been affiliated until now, it would be beneficial to the institutions, their students, and the Ontario university sector to maintain their access to COU shared services, including Quality Council. As a result, it was recommended that the two institutions be granted provisional membership as of July 1, 2022. Provisional membership would provide the two institutions with continued access to COU Shared Services, but not full membership of the Council (as either Executive Heads or Academic Colleagues). After discussion, the committee unanimously approved a motion to grant the two institutions provisional membership and to also conduct a review of the COU Constitution in terms of membership eligibility and membership categories.

2) The Committee strongly supported the Academic Colleagues' proposal to discuss Decolonization at the Council meeting on April 8.

3) The Committee discussed vaccination and masking mandates after the end of the Winter term. Some universities have already suspended both mandates as of May 1, and other universities were considering doing so. The members of the committee discussed the importance of framing it as a suspension or pause given the strong possibility that one or both mandates may need to be reinstated for the Fall term.

Submitted by Catherine Carstairs and Douglas Ivison

## **COU Government and Community Relations Report**

Catherine Carstairs and Kim Hellemans

The Government and Community Relations group met on 3 March 2022. This committee includes two colleagues as well as numerous Executive Heads. Numerous COU staff as well as President Steve Orsini were in attendance. The committee discussed the COU Advocacy Document which has already been shared with the Colleagues at our February meetings as well as future advocacy strategies.

Steve Orsini updated the committee on the advocacy efforts of the COU, emphasizing the importance of institutional autonomy, which had been jeopardized by Bill 276 (which splintered NOSM and Hearst from Laurentian). He stressed the need for financial sustainability, pointing to the 21% reduction in provincial grants in real dollars/student since 2006/7. The financial crunch is further exacerbated by the tuition freeze. There is also concern about the push from Colleges to deliver three-year degrees and applied MA degrees. He also pointed out that the government would like to put greater control on how we commercialize intellectual property.

Orsini emphasized the data the COU has gathered on the resilience of university graduates, their job-readiness, their high employment rates, and the need for more university graduates to fulfill the jobs of the future. The government has heard the message about the need for more skilled trades, but in fact the need for university graduates is even higher and we need to get this message across. There is also strong student and parental demand for university education, as demonstrated by increased application rates.

The group also discussed strategies to get the ear of the government. The group hoped that we could partner with other groups (like the Ontario Hospital Association, Chambers of Commerce, municipalities etc.) who are reliant on university graduates to promote our message, although there was an awareness that these groups also have their own agendas with the government and may not be inclined to put our concerns front and centre. We also talked about partnering with student and parent groups as well as community groups, especially in the 905, where there are many immigrant Canadians who want to see their children go to university. There was also discussion of the need to reach out to local members of parliament.

## COU Update to Academic Colleagues – April 5-6, 2022

### COU Staffing Announcement

- Marny Scully will commence her role as Vice-President, Policy and Strategy, on April 18. She is currently deputy chief, government relations, at the University of Toronto. Previously she was on secondment as special advisor to the Ministry on SMA3.

### Tuition

- On March 23 the Ontario government announced the tuition fees framework for colleges and universities for 2022-23. Tuition for domestic Ontario students will remain frozen. Tuition for out-of-province domestic students will be allowed to increase by up to 5%, an increase from 3% for 2021-22.

### Strategic Mandate Agreements (SMA3)

- On February 25 the Ministry sent a memo announcing that the Ministry will delay the coupling to performance-based funding by another year (to 2023-24); and that will assess the sector's readiness for activation in Year 4 (2023-24) at a planned system-wide portion of 10% increasing to 25% in Year 5 (2024-25). COU lobbied for the postponing of the coupling of metrics to funding, as the pandemic will have a negative long-term effect on more than half of the metrics.
- On April 4, 2022, MCU shared with universities the criteria and guidelines related to the SMA3. This follows a government decision to forego using the Education and Skills Online (ESO) assessment as the standardized measuring tool and to provide more flexibility to institutions by allowing them to create and post their own institution-specific specific measures in SMA3 Year 3. MCU set up the following timelines:
  - **Phase I: Refinement of Institutional Proposals (Spring-Fall 2022):** Institutions to submit and draft proposals and narratives by August 5, 2022, ahead of the Year 3 Annual Evaluation. The ministry will then review and schedule a check-in with each institution, if needed, in September-October 2022 to provide guidance.
  - **Phase II: Data Collection and Posting (Winter-Summer 2023):** As part of Stage 1 of the Year 3 Annual Evaluation process, the ministry will pre-populate the workbooks to include approved metric selections and related data and information with institutions in early December 2022. Institutions will have the opportunity to review the workbooks and finalize metric information and data by February 2023. Public posting of the metric narrative and data source will be implemented in Summer 2023, as part of the SMA3 Year 3 Ontario.ca website updates.

### International

- eCampusOntario is funding a consortium of universities, colleges and Indigenous institutes to develop an Ontario Council on International Education (OCIE), focusing on the following four pillars:
  - International strategic enrolment management;
  - Development of an Ontario Education study brand for international education;
  - Development of a centralized Ontario Education web presence that highlights virtual, blended, and in-person international programs offered by Ontario's publicly-funded

postsecondary institutions; and

- Development of a sector-wide toolkit that will allow institutions to enhance virtual marketing, search engine optimization, content marketing, and sector-wide web-based data analytics.
- The project is seeking endorsement from COU, Colleges Ontario, the Indigenous Institutes Consortium (IIC) and eCampusOntario. OCAV has endorsed the project and recommended it be brought to Executive Heads for approval in April.

### **OURA Equity Admissions Data Collection Project**

- OURA (Ontario Universities Registrars Association) is working with OUAC to consider and propose changes to the shared OUAC undergraduate application form to enable the collection of equity data. Options are also being explored for how an institution's equity data may be best shared with the institution.
- OCAV expressed support for the initiative at their February 23 meeting.
- Implementation is targeted for Fall 2022 for 101 (high school entry) and 105 (non-high-school entry) applications.

### **COVID-19 & Mandatory Vaccination Policies**

- Effective March 1, Ontario lifted capacity limits in all indoor public settings and removed proof of vaccination requirements for all settings where the passport rules applied (restaurants, theatres, gyms, etc.). Effective March 21, masking requirements have been removed.
  - [COU issued a statement](#) on February 22 on behalf of the sector that universities would continue to maintain vaccination policies until the end of winter term (end of April 2022). [Colleges Ontario issued a similar statement](#). On March 11, a second statement was issued indicating masking would also continue until the end of term.
- The Chief Medical Officer of Health issued a Memo to MCU on March 1 revoking the instruction regarding the requirement for vaccination policies. However, he did recognize that PSE institutions may wish to continue with COVID-19 vaccination policies for the remainder of the academic term and ongoing as part of overall health and safety requirements for their institutions. Dr Moore indicated his wholehearted support for this approach.
- While the Instructions have been revoked, universities collectively received a strong recommendation from the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health (COMOH) to require mandatory vaccination for all individuals (including but not limited to students, staff, faculty, contractors, and visitors) involved in any in-person activities. In addition, universities have a duty to keep the workplace safe under the Occupational Health & Safety Act (OHSA).
- COU's Vaccine Legal Counsel Working Group is meeting regularly to discuss these issues, in the context of scientific modelling framework as well as a legal framework. A risk-based principles document was developed to guide decision-making. As of March 22, schools began announcing their policies for the spring term.
- In addition, the sector's COVID-19 Reference Group meets monthly. The COVID Reference Group's last meeting is in April.

## **COU Budget and Audit Committee Report – April 6, 2022**

The last Budget and Audit Committee met on Friday, February 18.

1. COU had a small deficit last year, due to the savings from temporary vacancies and reduced travel. COU will not increase member universities assessment fees next year. COU is planning for three year budget cycle, which revealed that in year 3 member universities assessment fees will increase by 2%, translate to 2% revenue increase, while maintain the current staff compliment.
2. High school graduates direct applicants remain the similar level, however, over the years, each applicant from submitting 3 applications to close to 6 applications last year, so each university might see higher applications, but all universities have to fight “conversion” to actually see students enrollment.
3. OUF will resume this year, two days in person and one day online, that will really benefit high school students.
4. Universities will continue to struggle with finance, COU’s lobby efforts against tuition freeze failed, so the tuition revenue will again freeze, government funding continue to drop, from over 40% of operating funding to the current level of less than one third. Tuition freeze alone, government takes 1.2 billion dollars away from the educational sector.
5. Over the years, due to the continuous reduction of government funding to universities, all schools start to become more rely on international students. International students tuition fees is roughly 7% of operating revenue seven years ago, to almost 25% currently. However, given fierce competition from European and Asian universities, and high international tuition from Canadian universities, we will see decline in the number of international students even post COVID.
6. In conclusion, declining government university operating grants, tuition cut and extension of freeze, potential declining of international students, universities will continue to struggle with finance sustainability.



## **COU REPORT FROM THE RELATIONSHIPS COMMITTEE**

Karleen Pendleton Jimenez and Alyson King

Meeting on March 30, 2022

The meeting started with the **President's Report**: Steven Orsini reported on activities of the COU in preparation for the upcoming provincial election, noting in particular a 3-part strategy to advocate about financial sustainability and flexibility for universities.

The bulk of the meeting focused on two issues: three-year college degrees and private universities.

**Three-year college degrees:** Colleges have been actively and advocating for the expansion of their degree-granting authority, bringing into question the differentiation and sustainability of the postsecondary system in Ontario. The background document provided a brief history of Ontario colleges, noting recent developments including the government's *Red Tape Bill: Supporting People and Small Businesses Act*. The bill includes government consideration of expanding degree-granting authority for publicly-assisted colleges, including expanding their credentials to include applied master's degrees. Discussion in the committee about how the sector can best engage the government on postsecondary "system design" after the election.

**Strengthening and maintaining public postsecondary education in Ontario** (private institutions): There has been a proliferation of private institutions, including private career colleges and private universities offering degree-level education, in Ontario, since the early 2000s. There are currently six private institutions which have been granted ministerial consent to use "university" and offer degree-level education in Ontario:

- Two Canadian-based private institutions (Yorkville University; International Business University).
- Two US-based private institutions (Niagara University; Northeastern University).
- Two Canadian-based Christian institutions (Redeemer University; Tyndale University).

There are also eight public universities from other jurisdictions (five from other Canadian provinces, and one each from the United States, Ireland, and Germany), as well as 17 of Ontario's 24 publicly-assisted colleges, that have ministerial consent to offer degree-level education in Ontario. In addition, there are a number of private institutions which have pending applications for ministerial consent: Digital Humanities Degree Project (May 2021); Global University Systems / University of Niagara Falls (June 2021); and, Westcliff University (December 2021).

There is concern that the government is creating a lot of very small institutions (e.g., Hearst & NOSM) that will not be sustainable and will end up undermining stability. COU is working to find ways to engage colleges on joint advocacy to defend the public education sector.

**Academic Senate****Friday, April 8th, 2022****Executive Team 2022-2023**

The incoming executive team will be starting on May 1st. Some of our executives have joined online today.

President: Riley McEntee

VP Finance & Administration: Montana Taylor

VP Advocacy & Awareness: Harikesh Panchal

VP Student Life: Preston English

Harikesh will be the Chief Student Senator next year. Further information will be sent out regarding contact information around May 1st. We wish all the best to this future executive team and look forward to seeing the advocacy they will do on behalf of our student membership.

**Academic Week**

After the success of last semester's Academic Week, we hosted one more from March 14th to 18th. This was in partnership with Academic Advising, the Dean of Arts and Science, the Dean of Education and Professional Studies, the Teaching Hub, and Student Learning and Transitions. Thank you to these departments for working with us.

**Dave Marshall Leadership Awards**

We would like to congratulate the 25 student leaders who were recognized in the categories of academics, campus and community involvement. These students are a small group of the many students who represent Nipissing University with pride.

**Night Owls**

The Student Centre hosted six Night Owls events in which the building was kept open until midnight. We had a great response from the students and we look forward to hosting these nights again in the Fall.

**Fundraising**

Thank you to everyone who purchased Good Glaze donuts from the Student Centre, as part of World Water Day. We raised \$565.40 for the Dreamcatcher Charitable Foundation to provide temporary water filtration units to locations under boil water advisories. Our Pi Day fundraiser also raised over \$200 for our Student Food Bank. Thank you to everyone for your support.

**Athletics**

We would like to congratulate all of the Lakers athletic teams throughout the year for their accomplishments. We would like to recognize the Women's Hockey Team, the Women's Ringette



Team and the Lakers Nordic Skiing Team who competed at the provincial and national levels. We look forward to seeing all these teams in action next year.

### **Indigenous Graduation Ceremony**

Congratulations to all students who attended the Indigenous Graduation Ceremony yesterday at the NUSU Student Centre. We are exceedingly proud of each and every student, and we wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

### **Food Bank**

We have seen a massive increase in the use of our student food bank. We have been receiving food and monetary donations and we are extremely grateful. Unfortunately, this time of year is particularly difficult for students financially. We are continuously looking for food and monetary donations. For anyone looking to donate, they can contact NUSU.

### **Building Hours**

The NUSU Student Centre will continue the normal hours of operation throughout April and the summer months. The building will be open Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm, including student food bank services. We are closed only on weekends and holidays.

### **Fall Student Centre**

Throughout the Summer, NUSU will be discussing and organizing events for the academic year. If any staff or faculty would like to partner with NUSU on events, campaigns or initiatives, please contact Sarah McGowan, our Director of Communications, at [communications@nusu.com](mailto:communications@nusu.com). Our goal at the Student Centre is for students, faculty and the community to meet and engage.

### **Thank You**

While this may not be the last academic senate of the 2022-2023 academic year, this is the last academic senate for this year's NUSU executive team as our terms finish at the end of the month. On behalf of Joe, Montana and myself I would like to extend a most sincere thank you for the patience, guidance and hospitality that all members of the senate have shown us over the past year. As previously mentioned Montana has been reelected in her role as the Vice-President of Finance and Administration for the upcoming year and as such will remain a student senator. For myself, I am happy to announce that I have been elected as the Education and Professional Studies Student senator for the upcoming year and will be sticking around just in a new position. Joe however will be graduating this year and we wish him the best of luck in his future endeavours. Thank you again for everything and have a great summer!