

Senate Agenda

Friday, August 11, 2023

10:30 a.m. – Room F210

Zoom Conference:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88092461985?pwd=U0lreXJHWEk2NkphTzR6MFdmL1ZZUT09>

Meeting ID: 880 9246 1985

Passcode: 194317

1. **Acknowledgement of 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.

2. **Approval of the Agenda**

3. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Senate Meeting of:** July 14, 2023

4. **Business Arising From the Minutes**

Following a request that the June 26, 2023, Senate minutes be amended to include the four questions regarding the removal of the ACAD 1601 course requirement, the amended minutes are posted on the Senate website.

5. **Reading and Disposing of Communications**

On July 26, 2023, Senate received the following communication from Sarah Hadley on behalf of the Arts and Science Faculty Council meeting:

Motion: The Arts & Science Faculty Council (July 26, 2023) advises Senate to recommend or not recommend the following list of departmental mergers:

- History, Anthropology, and Ancient Studies
- Philosophy, Political Science and Economics and Social Welfare
- Psychology, Sociology, and Child and Family Studies
- Gender Equality and Social Justice, Religions and Cultures, and Indigenous Studies
- Fine Arts and English Studies
- Biology and Chemistry and Geography

Dan Walters, as chair of Faculty Council, followed up with the following summary of the conversation at Faculty Council as Rationale for the motion:

The Senate By-laws Article 10.1 (b) outlines the terms of reference for Faculty Councils; subsection iii states that faculty councils can *make recommendations to Senate, or to an appropriate Senate standing committee on any matter deemed to be of relevant academic concern to the University*. First, the A&S Faculty council deem the restructuring of departments to be a relevant academic concern to the University. Second, A&S Faculty council argues that the process for changing the departmental structure was not followed. Under the Nipissing University Act, Article 22.2(a) the powers of Senate include making *recommendations to the Board respecting the establishment, maintenance, modification or termination of organizational structures such as faculties, schools, institutes, departments, or chairs within the University*. A&S Faculty council argues that without a recommendation from Senate to the Board, the modification of departments did not follow the correct procedures. As such, the A&S Faculty Council put forth a motion for Senate to consider, and recommend or not recommend, the departmental modifications listed above. Third, the A&S Faculty council suggest that the process did not follow the spirit of collegial governance as set out in the Report of the Special Governance Commissions by ignoring the departmental votes against the restructuring.

Members of the Senate Executive Committee voted unanimously that the motion be referred to the Joint Committee to be considered along with the original motion of July 14, 2023. Members were satisfied that the procedural questions raised in the original motion pertain to the motion(s) presented here.

Senate will address this motion when information is communicated from the Joint Committee. Once direction has been provided, Senate can receive it and give the question due consideration, providing everyone with the information required to make an informed decision.

6. Reports From Other Bodies

- A.
 - (1) President – oral report
 - (2) Provost and Vice-President Academic – oral report
 - (3) Vice-President Finance and Administration – no report
 - (4) Board of Governors – no report
 - (5) Alumni Advisory Board – no report
 - (6) Council of Ontario Universities (Academic Colleague) – link below:
[A Plan for Prosperity: Ensuring the Financial Sustainability of Ontario's Universities - Ontario's Universities \(ontariosuniversities.ca\)](https://www.ontariosuniversities.ca)
 - (7) Joint Board/Senate Committee on Governance – no report
 - (8) NUSU – written report
 - (9) Others

- B. Reports from Senate members

7. Question Period

8. Reports of Standing Committees and Faculty Councils

Senate Executive Committee

Motion 1: That the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated August 3, 2023 be received.

9. Other Business**10. Amendment of By-Laws****11. Elections**

- Elect two (2) faculty Senate representatives to serve on the Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance for three-year terms effective July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026.
- Elect one (1) faculty Senate representative to serve on the Senate Budget Advisory Committee for a three-year term effective July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026.

12. New Business**13. Announcements****14. Adjournment**

Nipissing University
Minutes of the Academic Senate Meeting
July 14, 2023
10:30 a.m.
Room F210 & Zoom Videoconference

Members Present:

A. Graff (Vice-Chair), C. Sutton, B. Law, C. Mady, P. Maher, D. Walters, D. Iafrate, N. Black

L. Chen, R. Davis, H. Earl, H. Earl, R. Gendron, A. Hatef, G. McCann, J. Murton, S. O'Hagan, G. Phillips, S. Renshaw, S. Srigley, T. Smith, N. Stevens, L. Thielen-Wilson, R. Vernescu, A. Weeks, R. Wenghofer, H. Zhu

A. Adler, J. Barker, K. Ferguson, C. Greco, D. Hay (Deputy Speaker), P. Millar, J. Muterera, G. Raymer, T. Sibbald (Speaker), M. Sullivan, J. Thornborrow, R. Vanderlee, V. Williams

C. Irwin, L. Sinclair

R. Hehn

R. McEntee, E. Cooke, H. Panchal, S. Greco

Absent With Regrets:

K. Wamsley, S. Winters, O. Pokorny, T. Horton, T. McParland, A. Schinkel-Ivy, P. English

The Senate Speaker offered a Traditional Territory acknowledgement.

Approval of the Agenda of the Senate Meeting of: July 14, 2023

Motion 1: Moved by N. Black, seconded by D. Hay that the agenda of the Senate meeting of July 14, 2023 be approved with an amendment that the COU Academic Colleague will provide a brief oral report.
CARRIED

Adoption of the Minutes of the Senate Meeting of: June 26, 2023

Following a formal request that the June 26, 2023, Senate minutes be amended to include the four questions regarding the removal of the ACAD 1601 course requirement provided to the Senate Secretary following the Senate meeting, the following motion was moved:

Motion 2: Moved by G. Phillips, seconded by J. Murton that the June 26, 2023, Senate minutes be amended to include the four questions regarding the removal of the ACAD 1601 course requirement provided to the Senate Secretary following the Senate meeting.
CARRIED

Motion 3: Moved by R. Wenghofer, seconded by D. Iafrate that the minutes of the Senate meeting of June 26, 2023 be adopted with revisions.
CARRIED

Business Arising From the Minutes of June 26, 2023

Motion: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by D. Iafrate that Senate approve that the following statement **be removed** from the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, and Bachelor of Fine Arts degree requirements:

"Must successfully complete ACAD 1601 within the first 60 Nipissing credits. ACAD 1601 will count towards three credits of the Humanities (Group I) requirement."

Following a lengthy discussion including the pros and cons of removing the ACAD 1601 course requirement, a request for a secret ballot was made. As there was no way to ensure confidentiality during the meeting for the on-line Senators, it was decided that an email including an anonymous Microsoft Forms poll be sent to only those Senators in attendance in-person and on-line. The results of the poll were announced by email following the vote. The motion was DEFEATED.

As noted in the July 6, 2023 Senate Executive Committee Report, as per Senate By-laws Article 7.5(c), the request that the motion be moved to conduct a secret ballot should have been moved, seconded, and put forward for a vote. Members of the Senate Executive Committee acknowledged this oversight and were satisfied that the minor procedural detail was addressed and considers the vote to be legitimate. It was noted that the Senate By-laws will be followed for future such requests.

Reports From Other Bodies

The Provost and Vice-President Academic (PVPA) provided a written report. The report is attached to the minutes. She advised that President Wamsley was participating in a PhD defence and unable to attend Senate.

The Board of Governors provided a written report. The report is attached to the minutes.

The Council of Ontario Universities Academic Colleague provided a report. The link to the report is listed below:

[Attach 1 T Vaillancourt presentation to Academic Colleagues, May 2023.pdf](#)

NUSU provided a written report. The report is attached to the minutes.

Question Period

In response to concerns expressed regarding amendments to Bill 26 – Strengthening Post-secondary Institutions and Students Act, 2022, the PVPA advised that the policy is still under review and feedback is being received with respect to the provisions in the policy. In regard to investigation and support, privacy considerations are being looked at and research is ongoing. The feedback that has been received has been integral in developing a strong policy.

As a preamble, the Nipissing University Act, Article 22, Duties of the Senate (22.1), was quoted: *"The Senate shall establish the educational policies of the University and may make recommendations to the Board with respect to any matter of academic concern to the University."*

The following concerns were raised:

- the Biology/Chemistry and Geography departments do not support the merger
- the mergers took place with little to no faculty consultation
- department votes against the mergers were not respected and ignored
- the mergers are in violation of the Nipissing University Act
- significant cost savings were not identified
- no criteria for merging the departments was provided, i.e.: number of faculty and students
- there are no synergies that support the merging of the departments
- several departments currently do not have a Chair
- upcoming faculty retirements, members on leave and cross appointments
- upcoming IQAP program reviews
- program Chairs having to field questions from students about program requirements in which the Chair has no academic background or knowledge
- it was a Senate responsibility to make these decisions

In response to the concerns expressed, the Dean of Arts and Science advised that the rationale had been discussed at previous Senate meetings, and that the mergers are not all about cost savings. The mergers are part of a regrouping strategy and the groupings do have an academic alignment. From an academic programming perspective there is a lot of overlap of content and synergies to deliver degree programs. He advised that there were 15 Chairs and a disproportionate distribution of students. The initiative undertaken over the last 18 months was to work together to develop a more efficient organizational structure in respect to addressing enrollment issues.

The PVPA expressed a procedural concern about what was voted on today and given the complexity of Motion 4, suggested that the motion should have been provided as a notice of motion.

She advised that her understanding is that the intention of the motion is that **the process for coupling** or other mechanisms to reorganize academic units will be discussed at the Joint Committee so that it aligns with the expectations of the NU Act. If a process can be found that satisfies everyone then there could be a host of ways in which we could work cooperatively and collaboratively. The Joint Committee can provide a framework moving forward under the assumption that departmental combination may be necessary and advise what this will look like and how these conditions, as well as the needs of individuals who may not have an understanding as to how other department operate, can be satisfied. She expressed concerns in respect to ongoing student supports and how these functions will be fulfilled and students advised. Decisions about structure should be taken deliberately, as they are not simple to reverse.

In response to the PVPA's comments, it was noted that the Joint Committee will review the process on the question of jurisdiction, authority, and procedure. The goal is to define a path forward recognizing that there are ongoing questions about whether the process followed in the last academic year aligned with the spirit or the letter of the NU Act, and whether the unit mergers had been approved by Senate by virtue of being reported to Senate from a delegated committee. Given the specific nature of the changes to structure that were adopted, it is necessary to highlight that Senate is not in a position to make these decisions on its own and must work in collaboration with the Board of Governors. The Joint Committee is to perform this work.

The following motion was put forward for recommendation to the Joint Committee of the Board and Senate to be discussed as a collegial body:

Motion 4: Moved by G. McCann, seconded by D. Tabachnick that whereas the merger of Biology/Chemistry and Geography was not supported by their respective faculty members, and whereas no sufficient rationale was provided prior to this decision, that the merger be tabled pending discussion by the Joint Committee of the Board and Senate.
CARRIED

The NUSU President requested that it be noted in the minutes that NUSU supports this motion. He advised that he met with the President of the Biology Society as well as the President of the Geography Club to receive input on the students' thoughts regarding the merger. Prior to his meeting with the students, they had completed a petition against the merger. He reminded that the merger is not only a faculty concern, it is also a student concern.

Reports of Standing Committees and Faculty or University Councils

Senate Executive Committee

Motion 5: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by D. Hay that the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated July 6, 2023 be received.
CARRIED

Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee (AQAPC)

Motion 6: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by R. Hehn that the Report of the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee dated June 23, 2023 be received.
CARRIED

Motion 7: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by L. Chen that Senate approve the Computer Science IQAP Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan.
CARRIED

Motion 8: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by N. Black that Senate approve the Gender Equality and Social Justice IQAP Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan.
CARRIED

Motion 9: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by L. Sinclair that Senate approve the Religions and Cultures IQAP Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan.
CARRIED

Amendment of By-Laws

Rationale:

To streamline the election nomination process, the following language was recommended:

4.3 Annual Election Procedures for Representatives Allocated to Each Faculty
(c) Nominations shall be submitted in writing to the Dean, signed by the nominator who is an eligible voter, not later than 28 February each year.

Motion 10: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by D. Tabachnick that Senate By-laws Article 4.3(c) be amended as outlined above.
CARRIED

Elections

- Elect two (2) faculty Senate representatives to serve on the Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance for three-year terms effective July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026. *(to replace Dr. Sarah Winters and Dr. Anahit Armenakyan)*

ACCLAIMED: D. Tabachnick

As only one nomination was received, an election will be included in the August 11, 2023 Senate agenda.

- Elect one (1) faculty Senate representative to serve on the Senate Budget Advisory Committee for a three-year term effective July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026. *(to replace Dr. Murat Tuncali)*

No nominations were received. The election will be included in the August 11, 2023 Senate agenda.

Adjournment

Senate was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

.....
A. Graff (Vice-Chair)

.....
S. Landriault (Senate Secretary)

Senate Report
Provost and Vice-President, Academic
July 14, 2023

1. As communicated in emails from the Teaching Hub, the university will be transitioning from Blackboard Learn to Blackboard Ultra. The Teaching Hub is sending email updates regarding workshops etc.

As you consider this transition, please consider the following **5 Things You Need to Know About the Transition to Blackboard Learn Ultra**, courtesy of Kyle Charron:

1. Attend workshops and keep an eye on the [Teaching Hub website](#) for further resources. The workshops provide an opportunity to have a group discussion and share specific use cases not only with the LSTs but other Instructors.
2. Please ensure that all course material is backed up outside of Blackboard as soon as possible, but no later than August 1, 2023. Please note that doing regular backups is best practice.
3. LSTs will not be copying from old shells automatically for the Blackboard version change.
4. You must import your own content for the move to Blackboard Learn Ultra.
5. New shells will be available 2-3 weeks after the course offerings for fall are finalized by the Deans' Offices and Registrar's Office.



Board of Governors Report to Senate - June 2023

Board of Governors Meeting June 27, 2023

The Board of Governors met on June 27, 2023, in the President's Boardroom (F303) and via Zoom remote conferencing, where "Pathways: Our Commitments to Water, Land and People," the 2024-2029 Nipissing University Strategic Plan was presented and subsequently approved.

To meet a recommendation from the Auditor General's report, the Board approved revisions to the Capital Debt Policy. The policy is intended to define the responsibilities for the approval of new external debts, maximum limits of external debt and reporting on capital debt. All Board-approved policies are available for viewing on the Nipissing University website.

Recommendations to appoint the following Individuals to the Research Ethics Board:

- **Dr. Anahita Baregheh**, Associate Professor, Faculty of Education and Professional Studies (3-year term – July 2023, renewable);
- **Dr. Christine Lalonde**, Instructor, Graduate Studies and Research (3-year term – July 2023, renewable);
- **Dr. Adam Davis**, Canadore College (3-year term, renewable); and
- **Dr. Anna-Liisa Mottonen**, Canadore College (3-year term, renewable).

The Board Chair thanked those Board members whose terms are coming to an end: Lisa Snider, Wenda Caswell, Jeff Scott and Bobby Ray, and she spoke to their dedication to Nipissing University throughout their years of service. She also welcomed, as of July 1, 2023, incoming Board members Janet Stockton, Jessica McMillan, Dr. Blaine Hatt and Laurel Muldoon.

The Board of Governors extends its gratitude to outgoing Chair, Marianne Berube, for her dedication and outstanding commitment to the Nipissing University Community. Dave Smits, Incoming Chair, will begin his term on July 1, 2023.

Academic Senate Report July 14th, 2023

NSO

NUSU would like to thank the hard work that was put into the planning, preparation, and execution of New Student Orientation by staff and volunteers. A special thank you to the NSO Orientation Assistants! NSO is essential for the growth and betterment of our incoming first year students to ensure they get all their questions asked, know where their academic resources are, learn about student life, and get the full experience out of their time at Nipissing University. The NSO team put in a lot of hours to execute an event for our new Lakers. NUSU enjoyed providing tours and participating in the resource fair. We look forward to seeing all the new Lakers again this fall at Orientation.

Summer PHD Institute

NUSU was invited to the Summer Ph.D Institute headed by Dr. Blaine Hatt. We had the amazing opportunity to meet the first and second year cohorts and to hear their background and their study interests. The event had a delicious lunch, welcoming remarks, and motivational words of wisdom from staff and faculty. Great information and resources were also provided. NUSU is very grateful that we were given the opportunity to give remarks and provide information at the luncheon. NUSU is excited to host the Ph.D students on July 12th for a BBQ social.

Communities in Bloom

This is just a reminder that the NUSU Student Centre will be one of the first stops for Communities in Bloom Judges on Tuesday, July 25 from 11:45am to 1pm. Please save the date and we look forward to seeing everyone there! We are grateful for the Nipissing community's consideration and support in this endeavour!

ACAD 1601

At the last Academic Senate there was a motion on the agenda seeking to eliminate ACAD 1601 as a degree requirement for BA, BSc, and BFA students. NUSU was opposed to this motion for two main reasons: Firstly, we believed that ACAD 1601 as a degree requirement is highly beneficial to the vast majority of students who take it, such as guiding students in accessing library resources. This is especially true given the anticipated large intake of first-year students whose high school years were interrupted by Covid-19. Secondly, we believed that there had not been enough consultation with the ACAD professors as well as steps moving forward in lieu of ACAD 1601 being a degree requirement. While NUSU acknowledges that ACAD 1601 would still be available to students, and some majors could keep ACAD 1601 as a requirement, we believe the widespread requirement part was of the utmost importance.

Our hope moving forward is that the University will have a tripartite response to the failure of this motion, being that they will reassess ACAD 1601 in our current and unprecedented academic landscape; consult robustly with the ACAD 1601 professors (while recognizing the conflict of interest); and, consider a specialized ACAD course (still as a degree requirement) that caters specifically to certain programs.

Academic Senate Report August 11th, 2023

Communities In Bloom

NUSU was one of the stops for the Communities In Bloom judges. We were able to tour them around our building, host a luncheon, show off our bee hives and welcome them to “The Secret Garden: A Community Tapestry” art exhibit.

Within this art exhibit are four features:

1. Astorville’s École élémentaire catholique Saint-Thomas d’Aquin students’ intricate paper flowers around the border
2. Empire Living Centre residents’ delicate pressed flower art
3. Poetic brilliance and captivating short stories from talented Nipissing University students: Riley Piche, Emma Nason, Jillian-Rae Picco, and Natasha Castilloux
4. Heartwarming glimpses of community projects, including The Gathering Place, North Bay & District Chamber of Commerce, Clean, Green, Beautiful North Bay, and TP North Bay, with NUSU playing a key role.

The exhibit harmoniously blends generations, uniting diverse backgrounds and preserving cultural traditions and values. Its interdisciplinary approach intertwines visual art with literary masterpieces, creating an immersive and enchanting experience for all visitors.

Thank you to everyone who participated, especially to Sav Searle and Emi Pines who curated the exhibit.

The exhibit is open at the NUSU Student Centre until August 9th. All are welcome!

Orientation Week: OWLS Week

Orientation Week (formerly known as Frosh Week) has been renamed to OWLS Week for four main reasons:

- It stands for Orientation Welcome Learning & Social. We want students to realize there is a balance between social events and educational components.
- Since removing the word “Frosh” from our t-shirts and adding the word “Owl” (example: High School MusicOWLS”), we are signally the university’s insignia.
- It will be clear to faculty, staff and students what we mean by OWLS week so they’re not confused with other orientations (such as New Student Orientation (NSO), International Orientation, Residence Orientation Weekend, and B.Ed Orientation).

- It is cyclical and connects everyone. By having students start off their university experience during OWLS Week, they will graduate with an owl on their degree.

The week will take place from Tuesday, August 29th to Saturday, September 2nd. Thank you to Sarah McGowan for bringing this forward to have united messaging for our students.

Colouring Book

NUSU launched a North Bay-themed colouring book featuring iconic scenes and landscapes, this book is perfect for all ages. The books are only \$10 (incl. tax) and all proceeds go to the NUSU Student Food Bank.

Copies can be purchased at the NUSU Student Centre (Monday-Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm).

Thank you to Sarah McGowan, who came up with this idea, and to our graphic designer, Madison Turner, who did a great job. The printing is done within Print Plus so we would like to also thank them for working with us on this venture.

Welcome BBQ

NUSU will be hosting a Welcome BBQ on September 20th at the Athletics Centre from 11am to 2pm. Details will be sent out ahead of time.

Thank You, Pat!

NUSU would like to extend a thank you to Pat in his time as Dean of Teaching. Under his leadership the Teaching Hub received accolades including:

- 2020 D2L Innovation Award in Teaching and Learning (Denyse Lafrance-Horning)
- 2021 Blackboard Catalyst Award for Student Success
- 2022 MCU Award of Excellence (Gemma Victor)
- 2022 OE Global Award for Best OER - *Liberated Learners* team
- 2022 3M National Student Fellowship (Shandon Ashitei)
- 2023 3M National Student Fellowship (Sarah Pecoskie-Schweir)
- 2023 3M National Teaching Fellowship (Laura Killam)
- 2023 Anthology Catalyst Award for Teaching and Learning.

Pat and his team were also able to secure either direct funds, or funding for partnered projects, of over \$1 million. They also partnered on the ESDC grant led by Outward Bound Canada to create an *Outdoor Training Academy* (total grant \$7.5 million; 2022-2025).

We wish Pat all the best in his future endeavours as a professor.

**NUSU Student Centre**

221 College Drive, North Bay, ON P1B 0G1

Tel: (705) 474-3450 ext. 4801 Fax: (705) 474-7732

Web: www.nusu.com**On The Rocks**

The Nipissing University Student Union (NUSU), Nipissing University and Sodexo are pleased to announce the upcoming grand opening of the highly anticipated On The Rocks nightclub located within the NUSU Student Centre (221 College Drive).

The official opening will take place on Friday, September 15 at 10 p.m. In general, the nightclub will be open on Fridays to Nipissing University students only ("Lakers Night") at a cost of \$5 per person, and Saturdays ("Escape Saturdays") to the general public at a cost of \$10 per person. It will also be open to all on Homecoming Weekend, September 22-24, 2023 for \$10 per person.

Bus transportation will be provided to patrons on both nights and will have pick-up and drop-off sites at Nipissing and Canadore residences, as well as stops along McKeown Avenue and Gormanville Road. With the safety and well-being of patrons being the top priority, Campus Security will be working with GardaWorld to ensure a secure and enjoyable environment.

A calendar of bar nights and events will be released prior to September on social media.

Employment opportunities and other information can be viewed at https://linktr.ee/ontherocks_nb.

For information on booking the space for events, visit <https://booking.nipissingu.ca>.

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY
REPORT OF THE SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

August 3, 2023

A meeting of the Senate Executive Committee took place in person and by Zoom conference on August 3, 2023.

The following members participated:

K. Wamsley (Chair), A. Graff (Vice-Chair), B. Law, C. Mady, D. Walters, D. Iafrate, T. Sibbald, A. Adler, S. Landriault (Recording Secretary, n-v)

Regrets: D. Hay, S. Renshaw, H. Panchal

The purpose of the meeting was to set the agenda for the August 11, 2023 Senate meeting.

The Provost chaired the meeting until President Wamsley was able to attend.

Under business arising from the minutes of the July 14, 2023 Senate meeting, it was noted that the June 26, 2023, Senate minutes were amended to include the four questions regarding the removal of the ACAD 1601 course requirement. The amended minutes will be posted to the Senate website.

It was noted that an election for two members of the Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance is included in the agenda. One Senator was elected at the July 14 Senate meeting, but a member of the Joint Committee resigned therefore two faculty Senator representatives will be required. The Joint Committee is being convened to address the motion put forward for recommendation regarding the proposed merger of the Biology/Chemistry and Geography departments.

A motion passed at the July 26, 2023 Arts & Science Faculty Council meeting requesting that Senate recommend or not recommend the list of departmental mergers was received for inclusion in the Senate agenda. Concerns were expressed that as no report, recommendation or rationale was included with the motion that Senators who aren't members of these departments may not have sufficient knowledge to make an informed decision. Members agreed that it would not be appropriate for Senate to consider the motion when a recommendation has already been referred to the Joint Committee.

It was noted that many procedural process questions were raised by the mergers. The motion under discussion is an example of the concerns that Senate will be asked to deal with once the Biology/Chemistry and Geography questions are dealt with. A process will need to be established by which Senate can formally make recommendations to the Board on questions of restructuring.

Members of the Senate Executive Committee voted unanimously that the motion be referred to the Joint Committee to be considered along with the original motion of July 14, 2023. Members were satisfied that the procedural questions raised in the original motion pertain to the motion(s) presented here.

Senate will address this motion when information is communicated from the Joint Committee. Once direction has been provided, Senate can receive it and give the question due consideration, providing everyone with the information required to make an informed decision.

A request was made that future electronic votes in Senate using Microsoft Forms allow for multiple Senators to see and review the votes and results. Votes would still be anonymous but there would be an observer or an adjudicator for transparency. This would allow more confidence in the process as further voting may arise.

The following elections were provided to the Senate Executive Committee for inclusion in the Senate agenda:

- Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance (two faculty Senators)
- Senate Budget Advisory Committee (one faculty Senator)

All positions are for three-years terms effective July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026.

Moved by A. Graff, seconded by T. Sibbald that the Senate Executive Committee approves the August 11, 2023 Senate agenda.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Graff", enclosed within a hand-drawn oval.

A. Graff
Vice-Chair, Senate Executive Committee

Motion 1: That Senate receive the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated August 3, 2023.