

Nipissing University
Minutes of the Academic Senate Meeting
February 9, 2024
2:30 p.m.
Room F210 & Zoom Videoconference

Members Present:

K. Wamsley (Chair), A. Graff, B. Law, G. Raymer, D. Walters, D. Iafrate, N. Black

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

S. Cairns, K. Ferguson, C. Greco, D. Hay, T. McParland, P. Millar, J. Muterera, C. Ricci, A. Schinkel-Ivy, T. Sibbald (Speaker), M. Sullivan, J. Thornborrow, R. Vanderlee, V. Williams

C. Irwin, O. Pokorny, L. Sinclair

F. Couchie, S. Fiddler

R. Hehn

H. Panchal, S. Greco, B. Brown

Absent With Regrets:

C. Sutton, S. Srigley, A. Adler, T. Horton, R. McEntee, E. Cooke, P. English

The Senate Speaker offered a Traditional Territory acknowledgement.

Approval of the Agenda of the Senate Meeting of: February 9, 2024

Motion 1: Moved by R. Hehn, seconded by D. Hay that the agenda of the Senate meeting of February 9, 2024 be approved.
CARRIED

Adoption of the Minutes of the Senate Meeting of: January 12, 2024

Motion 2: Moved by N. Stevens, seconded by B. Brown that the minutes of the Senate meeting of January 12, 2024 be adopted with a minor amendment on page 4 clarifying the changes of University's financial situation.
CARRIED

Business Arising From the Minutes

An election for three tenured faculty members from the Faculty of Arts and Science (elected by Senate) to serve on the Search Committee for the Dean of Arts and Science was included in the January 12, 2024 Senate agenda. The following three faculty members were elected by an anonymous Microsoft Forms email vote:

Dr. Robin Gendron

Dr. Jamie Murton

Dr. David Tabachnick

Reports From Other Bodies

The President provided a report. The report is attached to the minutes.

The Provost and Vice-President Academic provided an oral report and was pleased to announce the following upcoming Nipissing Research and Innovation sponsored events:

- Working Together: IP in Academia and Industry presentation by Noel Courage LL.B. on February 12 at the NUSU Student Centre
- NU 360 Speaker Night on March 20 at the NUSU Student Centre
- Undergraduate Research Conference on March 22 & 23. The Provost thanked the faculty members that have agreed to participate and encouraged students to present their research projects.
- Three Minute Thesis Competition on March 26 in the Nipissing University Theatre (F213)

The Provost also reminded that the Wampum Beading Project will be mounting their work in the NUSU Gallery this evening at 6 pm.

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

The Council of Ontario Universities Academic Colleague provided an oral report advising that the following topics have been discussed and will continue to be discussed at upcoming meetings: concerns regarding private colleges and housing shortages for international students, freedom of speech and academic freedom regarding the Middle East conflict, and the recognition of environmental sustainability and how we might collaborate with Canadore College to achieve goals in this area.

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

Question Period

A Senator spoke to concerns regarding the future of the Faculty of Arts and Science and the challenges of program sustainability. It was noted that motions are often passed with no meaningful discussion or opposition which raises concerns as to why questions regarding changes to academic programs were not raised in Senate and how we have come to the suspension of programs. Governance is hard work. It is reading and asking tough questions. Senators were asked to look to the future and think of ways to make Senate more effective and improve what we do as a Senate. The Senator reminded that our administration is doing their best with limited funds to determine where the institution is going and what it will look like in the future.

It was suggested that moving forward the responses from internal and external IQAP reviews be included in the Senate agenda for discussion at Senate. The primary responsibility of this body is to oversee the integrity and health of academic programs and this would be an effective way of flagging programs that are in trouble and to have broader discussion.

The Provost advised that she welcomes this conversation and encouraged Senators to actively take part in their role in academic governance and oversight. She expressed concerns that Senators may not always receive the required information in a meaningful, regular, and consistent way to contribute to academic decision making. She advised that over the last three months she has been working towards developing a program review matrix to be used as an annual way of reporting back to Senate on the health and viability of each program. This would be an amalgam of work of the units, the Registrar's Office, and the Institutional Planning Office.

The Provost indicated that the IQAP reports do not include enough information for Senate to test the viability of programs. COU is reflecting on the current structure of the IQAP documents as the financial viability of programs is not considered. They measure against the programs as described by the members of the program, not from a Senate or institutional perspective. Nipissing's program review document is meant to help Senate understand which programs have low enrollment and what the institution is doing to invest in the program year over year and measuring those investments. Senate's role is to have oversight and determine how the investments are playing out and gaining knowledge across the faculties and the programs. The Provost made a commitment to ensure that Senate has consistent information so that as a body it can reflect on ways to effect policy or program design at the level of program.

Following a request for regular reporting from the VP Finance and Administration, the Provost advised that changes to the Senate Budget Advisory Committee membership and terms of reference were just approved by Senate, so this Committee meets regularly and provides reports to Senate.

It was suggested that reports for Senate be provided at the start of the year rather than at the end of the year when some Senators may be off over the summer.

Following a request that Faculty Council report regularly to Senate, the Dean of Arts and Science advised that this would require a change in the Faculty of Arts and Science Constitution and would be up to members to discuss.

A question was asked whether a case will be made in support of universities following the response from the college sector that contained direct attacks on universities regarding international student enrollment in private colleges. The President advised that COU and Universities Canada have chosen to take the high road on this situation and that legislation is aimed at the private partnerships of the colleges. Much of the work is directed at the provincial government. Unfortunately, the federal government has given the province licence to decrease our autonomy as institutions as they have the right to identify the programs that international students can enroll in. A lot of work is taking place with the Ministers. 19 Presidents have met with the Minister, and they are pleased with the response of the Deputy Minister. North Bay City Council is also supporting Nipissing University and Canadore College and a statement has been provided to the Chamber of Commerce. He advised that we are doing what is right. We are being responsible by looking after our students and our finances.

In response to a question as to whether the argument has been made that the percentages are unfair to smaller universities and there aren't many small universities left, the President advised that the cost of offering programs in the north is much greater than universities in the south and

that we aren't going to get much bigger than 6000 students. The university is vital to the economy in North Bay and every argument he makes is to preserve the institution, the size that is best for us and best for our city.

Following a request as to when an update on our fundraising activities might be expected, the President advised that the current Director of Advancement and External Relations is on leave, but that fund raising activities continue and in another month or so regular reports will be provided. Many of the fundraising activities will be predicated upon the Strategic Plan and what has been achieved already, and the final aspects of our Operational Plan and Academic Plan will dictate our future. Further information will be provided in the coming weeks.

In response to a question regarding cross-coding, the Registrar advised that she has had discussions with faculty members and the Deans regarding the practice of an individual course with more than one course code. She reported that it is not good practice for data integrity to have multiple course codes for an individual course. The Registrar is researching practices at other institutions in order to determine best practice for the university.

It was noted that cross-coding allows small departments to provide a broader offering. The Registrar advised that cross-coding is not the preferred option; there are other more preferable ways that departments can continue to offer a broad offering of courses including cross-listing whereby home departments maintain ownership of the course. She would be happy to discuss this further.

Reports of Standing Committees and Faculty or University Councils

Senate Executive Committee

Motion 3: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by S. Renshaw that the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated February 1, 2024 be received.
CARRIED

Academic Curriculum Committee

Motion 4: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by T. Smith that the Report of the Academic Curriculum Committee dated January 19, 2024 be received.
CARRIED

Faculty of Arts and Science

Biology/Chemistry

Motion 5: Moved by D. Walters, seconded by N. Stevens that Senate approve that CHEM 2306 Organic Chemistry I be added as a degree requirement for the BSc Honours Specialization in Biology as outlined below.
CARRIED

Rationale: This change would make the program consistent with the majority of Biology programs across the province that have at least one Organic Chemistry course as a requirement.

Current Requirements:

Program Requirements:

Students will need to achieve a minimum 70% average in the 60 credits presented for the Honours Specialization in Biology.

Students must complete 120 credits including 60 credits in the Honours Specialization, as follows:

BIOL 1006	Introduction to Molecular and Cell Biology	3 cr.
BIOL 1007	Introduction to Organismal and Evolutionary Biology	3 cr.
BIOL 2446	Principles of Ecology	3 cr.
BIOL 2557	Genetics	3 cr.
BIOL 2336	Biology of Seedless Plants	or
BIOL 2337	Biology of Seed Plants	3 cr.
BIOL 2836	Invertebrate Zoology	or
BIOL 2837	Vertebrate Zoology	3 cr.
BIOL 3117	Biostatistics	3 cr.
BIOL Upper level		18 cr.
BIOL 3000 level		12 cr.
BIOL 4000 level		9 cr.

Other Science Requirements:

CHEM 1006	General Chemistry I	3 cr.
CHEM 1007	General Chemistry II	3 cr.
MATH 1000 level (excluding MATH 1070 , MATH 1911 , MATH 1912 and MATH 1922)		3 cr.
Science (maximum 3 cr. Biology)		6 cr.

Proposed Requirements:

Program Requirements:

Students will need to achieve a minimum 70% average in the 60 credits presented for the Honours Specialization in Biology.

Students must complete 120 credits including 60 credits in the Honours Specialization, as follows:

BIOL 1006	Introduction to Molecular and Cell Biology	3 cr.
BIOL 1007	Introduction to Organismal and Evolutionary Biology	3 cr.
BIOL 2446	Principles of Ecology	3 cr.
BIOL 2557	Genetics	3 cr.
BIOL 2336	Biology of Seedless Plants	or
BIOL 2337	Biology of Seed Plants	3 cr.
BIOL 2836	Invertebrate Zoology	or
BIOL 2837	Vertebrate Zoology	3 cr.
BIOL 3117	Biostatistics	3 cr.
BIOL Upper level		18 cr.
BIOL 3000 level		12 cr.
BIOL 4000 level		9 cr.

Other Science Requirements

CHEM 1006	General Chemistry I	3 cr.
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CHEM 1007	General Chemistry II	3 cr.
CHEM 2306	Organic Chemistry I	3 cr.
MATH 1000 level (excluding MATH 1070 , MATH 1911 , MATH 1912 and MATH 1922)		3 cr.
Science		3 cr.

Fine Arts & Visual Arts

Non-substantive:

That FAVA 2516: Community-Based Practice be unbanked as outlined below.

Rationale: The FAVA program plans to run this course in Winter 2025 (it will replace FAVA 2406: Drawing: Image and Ideation in cycling schedule).

Non-substantive:

That the course description for FAVA 2516: Community-Based Practice be revised as outlined below.

New Description:

Students explore community-based art practice through a combination of collaborative research activity and studio production. Working closely with one or more community organizations, students gain a broader perspective of the issues that affect local and regional communities. Students investigate how art functions in the public sphere and apply what they learn to the development of one or more public art projects.

Old description:

In this course, students will explore community-based art practice through a combination of collaborative research activity and studio production. Working closely with one or more community organizations, students will gain a broader perspective of the issues that affect local and regional communities. Students will investigate how art functions in the public sphere and apply what they learn to the development of one or more public art projects.

Rationale: The old description was not in present tense, active voice.

Faculty of Education and Professional Studies

Education

Non-substantive:

That the course EDUC 5256 (Evaluation of Curriculum and Instruction) be unbanked.

Rationale: EDUC 5256 Evaluation of Curriculum and Instruction was not intentionally banked, but rather it was part of the auto-banking process that occurs if a course is not offered for five years. I was unaware, until recently, that EDUC 5256 was banked and respectfully request that it be unbanked as I have scheduled it to be taught in the Spring/Summer offerings of Graduate Courses in Education. The course offers a critical and reflective examination of curriculum and instruction and has application to the MEd themes of Adult Education, Educational Leadership, and Teaching and Pedagogy. Moving forward, I anticipate EDUC 5256 to be offered in each three-year cycle of Graduate Courses in Education.

Non-substantive:

That the course EDUC 5126 (Theories of Learning) be unbanked.

Rationale: EDUC 5126 Theories of Learning was not intentionally banked, but rather it was part of the auto-banking process that occurs if a course is not offered for five years. I was unaware, until recently, that EDUC 5126 was banked and respectfully request that it be unbanked as I intend to schedule it to be taught in the Spring/Summer 2025 Term offerings of Graduate Courses in Education. The course explores various theories of learning and offers a critical and reflective examination of curriculum and instruction and has direct application to the MEd existing themes of Adult Education, Educational Leadership, Special Education and Teaching and Pedagogy. Moving forward, I anticipate EDUC 5126 to be offered in each cyclical rotation of Graduate Courses in Education.

Non-substantive:

That the course EDUC 5647 (The Gifted Learner) be unbanked.

Rationale: EDUC 5647: The Gifted Learner is a companion course to EDUC 5646 Creativity and Learning, EDUC 5417 Alternative Schooling, EDUC 5736 Teaching and Learning Through the Arts and EDUC 5747 Inquiry Through the Arts: Methodologies and Methods. It has direct application to the MEd existing themes of Adult Education, Educational Leadership, Language and Literacy, Special Education and Teaching and Pedagogy. It is intended that EDUC 5647 The Gifted Learner be offered as a Graduate Elective in the Winter 2025 Term. Moving forward, I anticipate EDUC 5647 to be offered in each cyclical rotation of Graduate Courses in Education.

Non-substantive:

That the course EDUC 5496 (Meanings of Literacy: Theory into Practice) be unbanked.

Rationale: This course was banked as part of normal university procedure and should unbanked. Meanings of Literacy: Theory into Practice is an important course that reinforces the theme in Graduate Studies in Education of Language and Literacies. The Course is scheduled to be taught in the SP/SU 2024 Term. An instructor is already in place and has been approved by the Dean of EPS. The course, once unbanked, will be rotated into the cyclical planning on graduate course in Graduate Studies in Education.

School of Criminal Justice**Non-substantive:**

That the Corrections stream be renamed Corrections and Community Justice Services.

Rationale: This housekeeping initiative is designed to ensure the titles of our streams remain aligned with the stated objectives of those streams. The proposed name change does not directly impact another faculty or change course offerings or objectives within our school. It does not result in a change in learning outcomes or require additional resources or supports. And while the proposal reflects changes that have long passed their accrediting bodies, it is not itself a programmatic change.

Admission Requirements**Business Post-Baccalaureate Diplomas Revised Admission Requirements**

Motion 6: Moved by G. Raymer, seconded by D. Walters that Senate approve that the revised admission requirements for all Business Post-Baccalaureate Diplomas be approved as outlined below.
CARRIED

Proposed Modification Admission Requirements:

Post-Baccalaureate Diplomas in Business

Admission consideration will be given to applicants with a minimum three-year undergraduate degree from a recognized university with a minimum overall average of 70%. Applicants possessing an undergraduate degree in Business will be given admission consideration to an area of study in business other than the one studied within their undergraduate degree. Applicants to the Post-Baccalaureate diploma programs in Business are not eligible to receive transfer credits for previously completed courses. All courses in the diploma program admitted to must be completed to meet graduation requirements.

International applicants must have at least six credits of university English and/or Communications (at a recognized English language university in an English-speaking country) prior to admission or have met Nipissing University's English language proficiency requirements through the acceptable English language tests. The English/Communication courses and/or English language tests must have been completed within the two years prior to attending Nipissing University.

Domestic applicants with international education may be required to meet the English/Communication requirement unless otherwise exempt under Nipissing's English Language Proficiency policy.

Current Admission Requirements:

Post-Baccalaureate Diplomas in Business

Admission consideration will be given to applicants with a minimum of a three-year university undergraduate degree from a recognized university. Applicants possessing an undergraduate degree in Business will be given admission consideration to an area of study in business other than the one studied within their undergraduate degree. Applicants to the Post-Baccalaureate diploma programs in Business are not eligible to receive transfer credits for previously completed courses. All courses in the diploma program admitted to must be completed to meet graduation requirements.

International applicants must have at least six credits of university English and/or Communications (at a recognized English language university in an English speaking country) prior to admission or have met Nipissing University's English language proficiency requirements through the acceptable English language tests. The English/Communication courses and/or English language tests must have been completed within the two years prior to attending Nipissing University.

Domestic applicants with international education may be required to meet the English/Communication requirement unless otherwise exempt under Nipissing's English Language Proficiency policy.

Rationale: The current admission policy for our business post-baccalaureate diploma programs doesn't require a minimum average, we're proposing to include a minimum average of 70%, this aligns with the admission requirements in all of our post-baccalaureate programs.

The proposal includes the following Business post-baccalaureate diploma programs:

- Business Administration
- Finance
- Human Resource Management
- International Business
- Marketing

The School of Business supports this revision. If approved this will take effect for our January 2025 intake.

Submitted by: Debra Iafrate

Date: January 9, 2024

RPN to BScN Bridging Program (Blended Delivery) - Admission Requirements Policy Modification

Motion 7: Moved by G. Raymer, seconded by N. Stevens that Senate approve that the modified admission requirements for the RPN to BScN Bridging Program (Blended Delivery) be approved.
CARRIED

Current Admission Requirements

Admission consideration will be given to applicants who have successfully completed a two year Registered Practical Nurse (RPN) diploma (not certificate) from an Ontario college with a minimum GPA of 3.0. Applicants must also be a current registered member in good standing with the College of Nurses in Ontario (CNO) as an RPN and be an employee (with a letter of support) of one Nipissing's partner health care agencies.

Proposed Modification Admission Requirements

Admission consideration will be given to applicants who have successfully completed a Practical Nurse (PN) diploma (not certificate) program from a recognized college with a minimum overall average of 70%. Applicants must also be a current registered member in good standing with the College of Nurses in Ontario (CNO) as an RPN and be an employee (with a letter of support) of one Nipissing's partner health care agencies.

Rationale: Currently, the program is only available to RPNs who were graduates of a Practical Nursing (2 year) program in Ontario. Any deviation from that would deem the applicant ineligible for admission consideration even though they were registered with the College of Nurses in Ontario (CNO) as an RPN. The proposed modified admission requirements will open admission to applicants who are registered as an RPN with CNO and have completed the 3 semester Practical Nursing program for internationally educated nurses or a practical nursing diploma complete in another Canadian province. No changes are being made to the minimum admission average, CNO registration requirement, or the requirement to be employed by a partner agency.

Submitted by: Heather Brown

Date: December 12, 2023

Pathway

Proposed Amendment to Transfer Pathway for Environmental Technician and Environmental Technology Diploma Graduates from Canadore College

Motion 8: Moved by D. Walters, seconded by B. Brown that Senate approve that the transfer pathway for the Environmental Technician - Protection and Compliance (two-year) and the Environmental Technology (three-year) College diploma graduates be amended as outlined below:
CARRIED

- i) Environmental Technician – Protection and Compliance (two-year) Diploma
Graduates of the Environmental Technician two-year diploma program at Canadore College with a cumulative program average of 72 percent or better will be considered for admission to a Bachelor of Science Honours Specialization or Specialization in Biology or Environmental Biology & Technology with transfer credit to a maximum of 60 credits.
- ii) Environmental Technology (three-year) Diploma
Graduates of the Environmental Technology three-year diploma program at Canadore College with a cumulative program average of 72 percent or better will be considered for admission to Bachelor of Science Honours Specialization or specialization in Biology or Environmental Biology & Technology with transfer credit to a maximum of 69 credits.

Rationale: The current transfer pathways are as follows:

- i) Environmental Protection Technician Diploma
Applicants who are graduates of the Environmental Technician – Protection and Compliance diploma program at Canadore College with a cumulative 3.25 GPA or better can be considered for admission to an Honours Specialization or Specialization in Biology or Environmental Biology and Technology programs with transfer credit to a maximum of 60 credits.
- ii) Environmental Protection Technology Diploma
Applicants who are graduates of the former Environmental Protection Technology diploma program at Canadore College with a cumulative 3.25 GPA or better can be considered for admission to Biology or Liberal Science programs with transfer credit to a maximum of 48 credits.

Applicants who are graduates of the former Environmental Protection Technology diploma program at Canadore College with a cumulative 3.25 GPA or better will be considered for admission to the Environmental Biology and Technology degree program with transfer credit to a maximum of 69 credits.

Canadore College has reinstated their three-year Environmental Technology Diploma program and has requested that Nipissing reinstate/reactivate said pathways. As such, references to the “former” program have been removed.

The required GPA of 3.25 indicated on the original transfer pathways referred to Canadore College’s 2015 grade scale, which has since changed. (See Appendix B for Canadore College’s grade scales.) Due to varying grade scales amongst Ontario Colleges, the required program grade for this transfer pathway should be noted by way of a percentage.

Appendix B – Canadore Grade Scales

CANADORE GRADING POLICY (SEPTEMBER 2016 to Present)

Grade Percent equivalent

Point Equivalent

A+	90-100	4.0
A	85-89	3.7
A-	80-84	3.5
B+	77-79	3.3
B	73-76	3.0
B-	70-72	2.7
C+	65-69	2.5
C	60-64	2.0
D+	55-59	1.5
D	50-54	1.0
F	0-49	

CANADORE GRADING POLICY (SEPTEMBER 2006 to AUGUST 2016)

Grade Point Equivalent

AH	4
A+	4
A	4
B+	3.5
B	3
C+	2.5
C	2
D+	1.5
D	1

DEPARTMENTAL TRANSFER PATHWAY APPROVAL FORM

***This form will substantiate departmental approval for transfer pathway creation and amendment submissions to the Academic Curriculum Committee and Academic Senate)*

DEPARTMENT/ DISCIPLINE	NAME (print)	POSITION	DATE
BIOL	Nathan Colborne	Chair (Acting)	09/01/2024

Discussion

The Committee held a discussion regarding whether members of ACC consider syllabi to be a substantive, or a non-substantive part of the minutes as shared with Senate. There was a wide variety of views on the question.

Members indicated that the syllabi enhances understanding and is very helpful when reviewing the course. The syllabi demonstrates how the course is structured and helps to clarify if the course meets the program and course outcomes. The Committee is interested in the assessment, resources, and content as presented in the syllabi. Syllabi presented to ACC should be reviewed by the academic unit for feedback and to ensure the proposed syllabi meets the expectations set out in the curriculum map.

There is an appreciation regarding the amount of work that is involved with creating a syllabi and it is understood that the syllabi content included with the course template is a sample and isn't necessarily what is presented to the student; however, that is not to say that the draft syllabi are a fiction prepared solely to secure the Committee's recommendation to Senate. Creating a new course requires significant work that should be recognized. ACC provides academic oversight in accordance with best practices in quality assurance.

The Chair is anticipating an evaluation of course approval processes through the IQAP audit.

Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee (AQAPC)

Motion 9: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by N. Black that the Report of the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee dated January 26, 2024 be received.
CARRIED

Research Committee

Motion 10: Moved by B. Law, seconded by N. Stevens that the Report of the Research Committee dated January 17, 2024 be received.
CARRIED

Other Business

Fran Couchie, Senate representative of the Board of Governors, spoke of events held earlier in the day which included the Sunrise Ceremony with Elder Mike Couchie, as well as the Learning Circle - Polishing the Chain Through Education: Looking at Our Past, Present and Future. Dr. Cindy Peltier as well as guests, Elder June Commanda (Nipissing First Nation community leader and former residential school Survivor) and community Knowledge Keepers Nancy Allaire (former teacher, principal, and Nipissing First Nation Education Director) and Alysha Allaire (Near North District School Board language teacher and community language advocate) shared their unique perspectives on Indigenous Education by looking at the past, present and future. Two band Councillors and the Deputy Chief also participated.

She noted that Dr. Peltier's closing remarks referred to the importance of celebrating our successes. She invited everyone to drop in to the Indigenous Initiatives office to visit and make use of the space and reminded everyone not to overlook their successes.

Amendment of By-laws

The revised Senate By-laws document dated February 2024 can be found on the Senate website at the following link: [Senate By-laws Revised February 2024](#)

Elections

- Elect one (1) faculty Senate representative to serve on the Senate Budget Advisory Committee for a three-year term effective now to June 30, 2026.
ACCLAIMED: S. Winters

New Business

Motion 11: Moved by D. Iafrate, seconded by R. Hehn that Senate consider receipt of the Report on Graduation Applicants dated February 2, 2024.
CARRIED

Motion 12: Moved by D. Iafrate, seconded by N. Stevens that Senate receive the Report of Graduation Applicants dated February 2, 2024.
CARRIED

Motion 13: Moved by D. Iafrate, seconded by B. Brown that Senate grant approval to graduate the students listed in the Report on Graduation Applicants dated February 2, 2024.
CARRIED

The Deans read out the February 2024 graduands by faculty and degree and congratulated the students and faculty on their achievements.

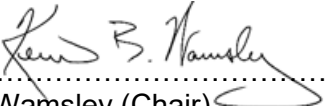
Announcements

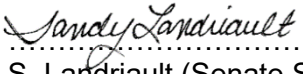
Senator Panchal reminded of the Lake Nipissing Beading Exhibition on February 9 at 6 pm at the Student Centre.

It was also noted that Lakers Basketball will be hosting the first ever Indigenous Cultural Celebration Night on February 9 at the RJSAC.

Adjournment

Senate was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.


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K. Wamsley (Chair)


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S. Landriault (Senate Secretary)

President's Senate Report 9 February 2024

Good afternoon colleagues. In my brief report, today, I want to focus mainly on two issues.

First, we can anticipate a response to the Blue-Ribbon Panel Report by the end of February. From our discussion with the government, we do not know what to expect – you heard last week that the Premier declared it was not time to raise tuition but soon after you heard his Cabinet state that a decision on tuition had not been made. Adding some urgency to the matter of course was the announcement by the Federal government to the provinces that study permits would be reduced by 35% for September 2024 and that work permits for students who receive diplomas from the private colleges would not be issued. As one of the largest hosts, Ontario could see reductions of 50% or greater. We have been keeping up to speed with all public statements, all news stories, we have met with our colleagues, and we have met with our local and regional politicians, and we have talked to our Deputy Minister and I was in Ottawa this week advocating for a pause on this decision, as were representatives from Universities Canada. So, what does this mean for Nipissing University? We understand that the Universities Application Centre will issue attestation forms but we know nothing about how seats will be distributed. We are working on financial models for 2024 and 2025, trying to anticipate how this plays out. We have presented our case to Minister Dunlop, Minister Fedeli, Minister Rickford, to Deputy Minister Wai and to MP Anthony Rota. I have clearly explained our history, our current plan, and our future plans to each of these individuals and I have asked the Province to leave us alone. Our enrolment strategy is an important part of our response to the Report of the Auditor General. We believe that Nipissing University has contributed the least to this issue among Universities and Colleges in Ontario. When I arrived in 2021, there were 79 international students – less than 1%. In two years, we have increased moderately to approximately 6% or a headcount of approximately 400. Our planned intake for 2024 was approximately 200 new international students as we move gradually towards a moderate plateau of 15-17% - what we believe and as discussed with both the Board and Senate is a reasonable and desired target. Our students are well looked after by an excellent academic and non-academic staff; they are in high quality programs; and they are housed. We will experience our largest returning class in September which will work in our favour financially. But, as stated, we do not know how the provincial decisions will play out to this date. As soon as the announcements about the Blue-Ribbon Panel and the International student allocations are handed down, we will assess them and communicate with our faculty, staff, and students promptly.

From our last meeting, regarding the request for a meeting of the Joint Committee, I report that the meeting is being organized shortly.

I'm pleased to report that we had a wonderful sunrise ceremony this morning and that our two basketball teams will be celebrating Indigenous Cultural activities at the Surtees Centre tonight with gametimes at 6:00 and 8:00 pm.

Now that the student elections have occurred, we wish to extend our early gratitude to our outgoing Student Council and provide an early welcome to the newly elected members.



**Nipissing University Alumni Advisory Board report to Academic Senate
February 2024**

Winter Semester

NUAAB would like to wish all staff, faculty and students a wonderful start to their winter semester. We are looking forward to witnessing everyone's hard work, and officially welcoming a new cohort of Alumni to our ranks at Convocation this spring.

3rd Annual Shoot for Change Charity Basketball Game

NUAAB provided a \$5,000 donation towards the annual Shoot for Change Charity Basketball Games that took place on January 20th. To date, NUAAB has donated \$15,000 to the Warren Lindsay Bursary which supports BIPOC student at Nipissing.

Nipissing Lakers Athletics Wall of Fame

At our December meeting, NUAAB passed a motion to provide Lakers Athletics with \$7,000 for the construction and installation of a Wall of Fame at the Robert J. Surtees Student Athletic Centre. We look forward to reflecting and celebrating on the successes of athletic alumni in the years ahead!

NU Café

Brought to you by Ten Thousand Coffees and supported by 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 through 2024.

If you haven't joined, now is a great time to come and connect with students and alumni. The next round of introductions begins February 6th, 2024. Sign up to join the conversation [here!](#)



February Academic Senate Report

Executive Elections

By the time this report will be read, the NUSU 2024/2025 Executive Elections will have concluded! We look forward to announcing who next year's Executives will be.

Director-at-Large and Senator Elections

Packages for Director and Senator elections will be going out in mid-February, with their election period taking place in March. We look forward to announcing who the successful Directors and Senators will be at the next Academic Senate!

Academic Week

NUSU's Winter Semester Academic Week will be taking place from Monday, February 5 until Saturday, February 10. We've prepared a whole ensemble of events during the week for all students, including Goodie Bags, Bowling, and Minute To Win It games!

B.Ed Winter Semester Placements

Best of luck and safe travels to all the B.Ed students heading off to their placements this month! We hope you have an amazing time, learn lots, and show why Nipissing produces the best teachers.