

Nipissing University
Minutes of the Academic Senate Meeting
February 14, 2025
2:30 p.m.
Room F210 & Zoom Videoconference

Members Present:

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

L. Chen, R. Gendron, A. Hatef, S. Kariuki, G. Phillips (Deputy Speaker), K. Srigley, T. Smith, N. Stevens, D. Tabachnick, L. Thielen-Wilson, A. Weeks, R. Wenghofer, S. Winters

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

C. Irwin, R. Kasperavicius

F. Couchie, R. Veli

R. Hehn

B. Brown

Absent With Regrets:

J. Abbott, G. McCann, S. Renshaw, T. Stewart, H. Texiera, H. Zhu, A. Adler, D. Hay, O. Pokorny, H. Panchal, M. DeVuono, T. Miller, P. English, E. Bonneau, D. Cassanto

The Senate Speaker offered a Traditional Territory acknowledgement.

Approval of the Agenda of the Senate Meeting of: February 14, 2025

Motion 1: Moved by N. Stevens, seconded by R. Wenghofer that the agenda of the Senate meeting of February 14, 2025 be approved with an amendment that Motion 5 be removed and included in the next Senate agenda as the Senate Budget Advisory Committee report was inadvertently left out.
CARRIED

Adoption of the Minutes of the Senate Meeting of: January 17, 2025

Motion 2: Moved by M. Sullivan, seconded by R. Veli that the minutes of the Senate meeting of January 17, 2025 be adopted.
CARRIED

Reports From Other Bodies

The President's report, appended to the minutes, highlighted updates on operational planning processes, successful advocacy to the Province, the NOUS Report, and projections for a balanced budget and strong enrolment. The President also reported on Black History Month activities and reminded members of Indigenous Week, taking place from February 24-28. The full report is attached to the minutes.

The Provost and Vice-President Academic provided an update on 2025-26 admissions, reporting a 7.6% increase in applications and a rise in acceptances compared to last year. She also noted that applications for the Integrate Pilot program are up, with all applicants contacted for follow-up. The Provost expressed gratitude to the Registrar's Office staff and all involved in admissions. Additionally, she shared that Student Development Services is enhancing processes and student support for incoming students. She reminded members of the upcoming Open House on March 8 and encouraged participation. The Provost also congratulated three student athletes who represented Canada at the FISU World University Games in Torino, Italy, and provided an update on the launch of the "Dean for a Day" opportunity, encouraging student involvement.

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

The Nipissing University Student Union (NUSU) provided a report, which is attached to the minutes.

Question Period

The following statement from the Program Admission Suspension Procedure included in the February 13, 2025 Board of Governors meeting agenda was read:

Program Redundancy: The permanent closure of a program occurs when a program permanently ceases to be offered by the University. A program declared redundant is removed from the list of approved program offerings after a recommendation is produced from Senate for program closure and that motion is affirmed by the Board of Governors. The procedure outlined in this guideline document is not to be confused with the program redundancy process.

In response to a question regarding whether the policy was approved and if it equates program closure with redundancy, the Provost confirmed that Senate's redundancy procedure was approved and is the procedure followed not the Program Redundancy Process outlined in Article 45 of the Collective Agreement (CA). The Program Admission Suspension Procedure will be a formally documented process followed by Senate. In September 2024, the AQAPC convened a subcommittee to draft a policy on amalgamation, consolidation and renaming.

It was noted that the Program Admission Suspension Procedure, Appendix A: Annual Program Review Process, point 4, indicates recommendations for program redundancy must follow the process outlined in Senate and Board policies, but there are no Senate and Board policies on program redundancy, the only written language is CA Article 45.

The Provost confirmed that the AQAPC subcommittee's document, once approved by AQAPC for Senate recommendation, will be followed. She emphasized that the CA has no binding authority over Senate and should not replace its responsibility as delegated by the Board. She also clarified that CA Article 45 relates to member redundancy, not program redundancy, and should focus on the terms and conditions of member redundancy.

In follow up to a request made at the December 2024 Senate meeting for an update regarding the levy students pay to support the Equity Centre, the VP Finance and Administration (VPFA)

advised that the Compulsory Ancillary Fees Committee has met twice and will meet again in approximately 2 weeks. The fee description reads similar to the former policy but does not include a group name. It reads, "This fee is reserved to support equity, diversity and inclusion for Nipissing University students through the creation of safer spaces formal training, facilitated educational discussions, events, advocacy, etc." The VPFA noted that the equity audit may help inform meaningful ways to spend these funds.

A Senator and member of the Nipissing University Indigenous Council on Education (NUICE) discussed the Accord on Indigenous Education, highlighting its guidance on Indigenous education, decolonization, and Indigeneity. Developed by Indigenous scholars in 2010, the Accord is now being updated, with a request for Canadian educators' input. Universities can sign on to implement the Accord. The Senator asked if Nipissing University plans to sign the Accord and if resources will be provided to support faculty in its implementation, noting alignment with the University's Strategic Plan and the need for professional development and resources in elementary and secondary education.

The Provost confirmed that Dean Raymer, as a decanal participant, has received the draft report. The Dean will present it within the Schulich School of Education and bring forward recommendations on whether the University will sign the Accord and the implications of implementing its recommendations.

Reports of Standing Committees and Faculty or University Councils

Senate Executive Committee

Motion 3: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by T. Smith that the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated February 6, 2025 be received.
CARRIED

Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee (AQAPC)

Motion 4: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by B. Brown that the Report of the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee dated January 24, 2025 be received.
CARRIED

The Speaker announced that the 2025-2026 Strategic Enrolment Management Targets will be presented in camera under New Business due to their confidential nature.

Other Business

Notice of Motion: "Whereas the University does not have an official, written, Senate-approved policy that outlines the process to be followed in cases of program closure, in the absence of such a policy and process Senate expects future program closures to follow the process outlined in the Program Redundancy process."

Senator Gendron, mover of the notice of motion, stated that his understanding from the President and Provost is that a competent AQAPC subcommittee is developing a program closure process for Senate's information and approval. He is willing to withdraw the notice of motion if Senate agrees, urging the subcommittee to ensure the policy is data and evidence driven, with evidence presented at each stage of the process, including at Senate.

The Speaker acknowledged Senator Gendron's recommendation, and the notice of motion was withdrawn.

Elections

- Elect three (3) tenured faculty members, with at least one from each faculty, to be elected by Senate for the Committee for the Search/Appointment/ Reappointment of the President and Vice-Chancellor.

ACCLAIMED: Jamie Murton (A&S)

ACCLAIMED: Katrina Srigley (A&S)

ACCLAIMED: Alison Schinkel-Ivy (EPS)

New Business

Motion 5: Moved by D. Iafrate, seconded by N. Black that Senate consider receipt of the Report on Graduation Applicants dated February 5, 2025.

CARRIED

Motion 6: Moved by D. Iafrate, seconded by K. Srigley that Senate receive the Report on Graduation Applicants dated February 5, 2025.

CARRIED

Motion 7: Moved by D. Iafrate, seconded by R. Veli that Senate grant approval to graduate the students listed in the Report on Graduation Applicants dated February 5, 2025.

CARRIED

The Vice-President Research, Innovation, and Graduate Studies, along with the Deans, announced the February 2025 graduands by faculty and degree, extending congratulations to both the students and faculty for their achievements.

Motion 8: Moved by N. Stevens, seconded by F. Couchie that Senate move in camera for a presentation of the Strategic Enrolment Management Targets 2025-2026.

CARRIED

The 2025-2026 Strategic Enrolment Management Targets presentation was shared in camera. The Provost reminded that the information is confidential due to its proprietary nature and should not be shared outside the University. Most Senators are familiar with the targets, which have circulated within the faculties.

Historically, the University has worked from an institutional target with the hope that year over year enrolment numbers would be maintained. In the Academic and Operational Plan, our objective is a 6% year-over-year enrolment growth to ensure financial sustainability. Program targets were set, with a starting target of 25 for most programs. Programs with higher enrolments, like BEd, have higher targets. Please discuss with your Dean if you have questions as to where targets were set. Graduate recruitment targets will be reviewed under Project Integrate.

We have completed the 2025-26 recruitment cycle and are now in the admission phase, while also beginning the 2026-27 enrollment and recruitment target setting phase. With the phasing in of these two sets of enrolment targets, the University has now begun to implement its recruitment cycle in alignment with its recruitment activities. We will be examining our effectiveness and ability to meet these targets by program. Each of the faculties has a Strategic Enrolment Management faculty level group and the Recruitment, Admission, and Marketing teams are working closely to respond in real time to address our recruitment strategies by program.

Motion 9: Moved by S. Winters, seconded by K. Srigley that Senate move out of camera.

CARRIED

Announcements

The Associate Vice-President, Research, Innovation and Graduate Studies reminded that March is Research Month advising of the NU 360 Speaker Night on March 4, the Undergraduate Research Conference on March 28-29 with keynote speaker is Dr. Kirsten Greer, and the Three Minute Thesis Competition (3MT) on April 1. Further information outlining all the activities can be found on the Research website. Please encourage students to register and support their classmates.

Senator Katrina Srigley announced that the History Department is hosting the 11th Annual Anne Clendinning Memorial Lecture on March 6 featuring Charlie Angus speaking on, "Restoring Dangerous Memories to our Shared Histories."

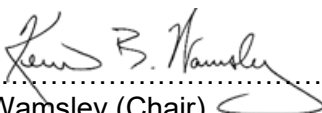
Senator Nancy Stevens announced Indigenous Week, February 24-28, a time to honor Indigenous cultures and voices with various events, including workshops, talks, celebrations, and land-based activities led by Indigenous knowledge holders, Elders, artists, and scholars. The Aanjibimaadisiwin conference on Indigenous-Specific Responses to Sexual Violence will be held on February 27.

Senator John Allison announced that the Canadian International Council (CIC) Nipissing Branch is hosting Dr. Adam Chapnick, Deputy Director of the Canadian Forces College and professor at the Royal Military College. Dr. Chapnick will be providing a presentation, "Canada First, Not Canada Alone," on March 12.

The Provost reminded that March Open House takes place on March 8.

Adjournment

Senate adjourned at 3:48 p.m.


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K. Wamsley (Chair)


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S. Landriault (Senate Secretary)

President's Senate Report

14 February 2025

Good afternoon Senators and Happy Valentines Day. We find ourselves almost halfway through our Winter Term with only a few months left to fiscal year end for 2024-25. On committee day, January 27, we provided updates to all of our Board subcommittees on various items as we move through our year and our operational planning processes. As always, our small but effective team is working on many projects simultaneously to keep the university on course and to make important changes as we chart a path towards a sustainable future. Our Audit and Finance report to the Board is still projecting a balanced budget, with monies being directed towards our Reserves, which is having a direct impact on our credit ratings and our reputation with the banks and the Province. A few comments about why we find ourselves in a balanced budget position again this year. We had a very good recruiting year in 2023-24 and good levels of domestic recruitment in the current year and the returning students from last year's class make up a strong enrolment class for this year. All Senators will be aware of the challenges presented to our enrolment of international students and this, as expected, has had a direct impact on our revenues and on some of our class sizes, necessarily. These revenue decreases, however, have been offset by a strong cohort of January students, primarily domestic and primarily in our Nursing program.

The major factor in our surplus has been driven by our successful advocacy to the Province. Following up from the Treasury Board Report and the Auditor-General's Report and from the principles of our strategic plan – and you will find all of these strategic directions consistent with the NOUS recommendations – we have presented a very strong case for support to the Province. And the Province responded very well in 2024-25, providing assistance in operating funds, providing a top up because we had been categorized as a high-risk institution, and a one-time significant top up to our Northern Grant. In short, this advocacy and support have enabled us to strengthen our financial position significantly and in short order. Our advocacy is complete for 2024-25 and our work for fiscal 2025-26 is on hold with the provincial election. Senate members may be aware that the provincial leaders' debate was held next door just prior to Senate. As part of this visit, the leader of the Liberal Party, Bonnie Crombie requested a meeting with me and we provided her with a tour of our facilities yesterday. She was the only party leader who made this request. Our thanks to our Nursing staff and students and Dean who provided an excellent presentation of our facilities and academic programming.

With respect to the NOUS Report, please know that the Province has not been very clear with the processes to date. Of course we were challenged by these deadlines. We look forward to seeing the full NOUS Report and responding to it and Cheryl Foy's report on university governance. We have submitted a progress report to the Province

and we are working towards a March 31 final submission. There will be few surprises in this report with the exception that they will undoubtedly recommend a significant investment in technology to help us refine our institutional processes improve our operational efficiencies – to eliminate paper, for example and to be more responsive to our students. An assessment of Cheryl Foy's report will also be forthcoming as we do not yet have the final draft or a proposed plan for implementation. More information will be forthcoming on these reports.

We are currently in our budget season and just this week, we are participating in unit budget meetings and will do so for the next couple of weeks as we move towards the creation of a draft budget. All units are preparing their submissions for 2025-26, with the understanding that revenues are limited and expenditures must be strategic and align with principles underscored in our strategic plan and academic/operational plans. We don't anticipate receiving the government support that we did this year and, because of the pending election, the communication of this information will be delayed. We continue to budget carefully, to spend carefully, to recruit both domestically and internationally in earnest, and we continue to develop new programs that we believe will be attractive to students.

We also are continuing to work on developing our ancillary services, expanding our food sales, and residence use for profit, and developing extended learning opportunities. We have recently appointed a new Director of Ancillary Revenues and Business development and he, Mike Dupelle, will be responsible for generating these revenues. We have had some success in fundraising which will be announced in the coming months.

As you know, one of our priorities this year is to support research and, in particular, to build our national reputation by supporting student research in the field and by developing our work integrated learning experiences in our city. These are some preliminary statements on my part. There will be much more to come.

Please consider attending our research month events – the NU360 evening, the undergraduate research conference, and the three minute thesis. The second annual dinner – An Evening at Nipissing - will be raising money for the Student Research Opportunities Fund and the date is Friday June 13.

Also, our Vice Presidents and their teams push forward actions related to our operational planning and academic planning. These actions of course are targeted towards sustainability and to enhancing the learning and working environments of our campus. At the same time, the equity audit has been launched, conducted by the successful bidder, the Parriaggroup. Our Task Force met with them on January 30 and they will be meeting shortly with several groups on campus and will be available for questions at our next community forum on Wednesday February 19 and we will be working to provide them with all available and appropriate data. To restate the purpose

of the audit for the Board, the firm is surveying and interviewing faculty, staff, and students to hear about their experiences studying, living, and working at Nipissing University and they are assessing and evaluating the equity in our university processes, whether it be recruitment, transition services, residence life, academic programs and services, classroom environments, work environments, hiring practices, promotion and tenure, and our responses to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action. All of this to create a more inclusive environment for everyone across all of our campus services, activities, and our classroom and research experiences. I have thanked all of our Task Force members many times for their tireless work but I want to extend a special thank you to Traci Malikowski who has led our organization, provided all of the materials for meetings, arranged for the recording and note taking for all meetings and has kept us on track to get to this point.

Nipissing University has been celebrating Black History month, including the Black Excellence Dinner, where City and Town Mayors, and our MPP honored the story of Canada's first Black Mayor – Dr. Saint-Firmin Monestime who became the Mayor of Mattawa in 1963. Last weekend we hosted the 4th annual Shoot for Change basketball games which raise awareness about racism on university campuses and raise money for the Warren Lindsay bursaries. Last evening we hosted a Black History Month Film Event with commentary and Q&A with the film's director and moderated by our own Dr. Charles Anyinam entitled: What We Deserve – Restorative Justice and Reparation.

A reminder that February 24-28 is Indigenous Week and the Office of Indigenous Initiatives is organizing a number of celebratory and educational activities.



**Nipissing University Alumni Advisory Board report to Academic Senate
February 2025**

Alumni Survey

The Alumni Office is conducting an alumni survey to help shape the future of our events and initiatives! All Nipissing alumni are encouraged to participate, and the deadline to complete the survey is February 15. If you are an alumnus and would like to participate but cannot find the email, please contact us at alumni@nipissingu.ca for the link.

Nominations for Alumni Awards

We warmly encourage the broader Nipissing community to nominate a deserving alumnus for a 2025 Alumni Award! Nominations will be accepted until March 13, 2025, and award winners will be recognized during our annual Homecoming Weekend in September. For more information or to submit a nomination, please visit <https://www.nipissingu.ca/alumni/awards>.

Inaugural Ottawa Chapter Event

The Nipissing University Alumni Advisory Board is excited to host our inaugural Ottawa Chapter event! We will be connecting with 25 alumni and their guests as the Ottawa Charge take on the Boston Fleet on February 20. We look forward to reconnecting with alumni in the Greater Ottawa Region!



NUSU Academic Senate Report: February 2025

NUSU Executive Director Elections

NUSU's Elections for Executives is from February 10th-19th. The week was as follows

- Campaigning starts February 10th at 9:00AM
- Executive Debate is February 11th at 6:15PM
- Meet and Greet is at OnTheRocks, from 6:30PM-8:30PM on February 12th
- Voting for students opens February 13th and closes February 19th

We will announce the successful candidates at the next Senate meeting. Positions include President, VP Finance & Administration, VP Advocacy and Awareness, and VP Student Life

Upcoming Student Group Events

1. Nipissing Lakers' Theatre Club is currently completing their final rehearsals before their opening night for the production of Mamma Mia!, starting on March 14th-16th, and again on the 21st-22nd. Tickets can be purchased through their linktree on their instagram page @nulakerstheatre
2. Nipissing University Relay For Life is coming up on March 14th, starting at 7:00PM-7:00AM.

WI Wellness Week

NUSU's second Wellness Week of the Academic Year will be from March 10th-14th.

The events for the week include:

- Monday, March 10th: Financial Facts and Guidance (outside the Campus Bookstore), Cozy Crafts and Movie Night (held at OnTheRocks space)
- Tuesday, March 11th: Jeopardy & Hotchocolate w/ Access and Inclusion (outside Campus Bookstore)
- Wednesday March 12th: Plant & Picasso and Popcorn (outside Campus Bookstore). Paint n' Sip (in OnTheRocks space)
- Thursday, March 13th: Bathbombs (in NUSU Gallery), Pop Culture Trivia (in OnTheRocks Space)
- Friday, March 14th: Anxie-teas and Act Like a Kid (in NUSU Lobby)
- All week: Daily giveaways for Spiritual, Emotional, Intellectual, Physical and Social Wellness

If you have any questions, please contact vpadvocacy@nusu.com