

Nipissing University
Minutes of the Academic Senate Meeting
January 17, 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

J. Abbott, L. Chen, R. Gendron, G. McCann, G. Phillips (Deputy Speaker), S. Renshaw, K. Srigley, T. Smith, N. Stevens, T. Stewart, D. Tabachnick, L. Thielen-Wilson, A. Weeks, R. Wenghofer, S. Winters, H. Zhu

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

O. Pokorny

F. Couchie, R. Veli

T. Miller, B. Brown

Absent With Regrets:

N. Black, A. Hatef, S. Kariuki, H. Texiera, C. Irwin, L. Sinclair, P. Millar, R. Hehn, H. Panchal, M. DeVuono, P. English, E. Bonneau, D. Cassanto

The Senate Speaker offered a Traditional Territory acknowledgement.

Approval of the Agenda of the Senate Meeting of: January 17, 2025

Motion 1: Moved by K. Srigley, seconded by N. Stevens that the agenda of the Senate meeting of January 17, 2025 be approved with an amendment that Motion 11 in the ACC Report be corrected from PHIL-2417 to PHIL-4217.
CARRIED

Adoption of the Minutes of the Senate Meeting of: December 13, 2024

Motion 2: Moved by R. Veli, seconded by S. Winters that the minutes of the Senate meeting of December 13, 2024 be adopted with an amendment clarifying that the merger of the Ancient Studies and History programs has not been finalized.
CARRIED

Business Arising From the Minutes

Motion: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by R. Veli that the recommendations of the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee, the School of Nursing,

and the Education and Professional Studies Executive, to formally close the Scholar Practitioner Program be adopted.

Following a lengthy discussion, a request for a secret ballot was made. As there was no way to ensure confidentiality during the meeting for on-line Senators, an email including an anonymous Microsoft Forms poll was 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 CARRIED.

The motion included in the December 9, 2024, Report of the Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance, was revised to read: (*revision in bold*)

Following a voting period, the motion passed (**4** in favour, **2** opposed) and was brought forward to the Senate Executive Committee by Dr. Wamsley.

Reports From Other Bodies

Highlights from the President's report, appended to the minutes, included an announcement that the ParriagGroup had been selected to conduct an equity audit of Nipissing University. The President thanked the Task Force for their work. He provided an update on the new Student Research Opportunities Fund, and addressed recent Senate discussions regarding program pauses and program closures. He also encouraged Senators to rejoin Senate meetings in person.

The Provost and Vice-President Academic discussed the Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM) Plan advising that its purpose is to function as a framework to ensure realistic, financially sustainable, demand-based targets are set for enrolment. The plan focuses on setting transparent program admission and retention targets to achieve recruitment and enrolment goals, as well as systems for monitoring progress. The SEM targets were presented to the A&S faculty and will be shared with the EPS faculty and the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee (AQAPC). The enrollment and retention trends will be reviewed annually by AQAPC. The Provost noted that the targets in the SEM Plan are confidential and requested that they not be distributed publicly. She advised that she is happy to have further conversations with departments, staff and faculty. She also reported that the ad hoc committee on the use of artificial intelligence technologies in instructional settings has been established and that 16 members have volunteered to sit on the committee. The Director of Teaching and Learning will ensure that all departments are represented.

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

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

Question Period

In response to program changes brought forward by Philosophy, Professor Laurie Kruk was recognized by the Speaker and spoke to her concerns about the lack of institutional support for Philosophy as an independent program. She expressed fear that the program may be reduced to a series of service courses which could lead to suspended enrolment. She noted that many faculty members present hold a Doctor of Philosophy degree.

In follow up to a question regarding course enrollment limits and adherence to University policies as outlined in the Academic Calendar, the Dean of Arts & Science clarified that there are two types of course caps: an institutional cap based on classroom capacity and a cap that

is proposed by an individual course instructor or by an entire discipline and approved by the Dean for pedagogical reasons. He was unaware of any limits being exceeded and requested to be notified if they have been.

The Dean of Education and Professional Studies referred to the Course Waiting List Policy in the Academic Calendar, which ensures fair and equitable course additions. He confirmed that instructors cannot override discipline-established caps without approval. To his knowledge, the policy is being followed.

The Registrar also confirmed adherence to the Course Waiting List Policy.

In response to the President's comments on the Scholar Practitioner Program closure, concerns were raised about the lack of a written policy. The President confirmed that while Senate lacks a formal written process, program closures are recommended by Senate to the Board of Governors.

The Provost clarified that Senate is bound by its Act, precedent and governance protocols. The By-laws, Robert's Rules, and past precedents inform policies and processes. While acknowledging the gap in identifying procedural integrity to define process protocols and the policies appropriate for the institution, she agreed with APOP recommendations that defining clear protocols and policies is necessary. However, Senate can still proceed with program closures based on established precedent, given that precedent respects the shared governance commitments of the University.

Since the University lacks a formal policy but a precedent exists, it was suggested that a policy be drafted for clarity.

Reports of Standing Committees and Faculty or University Councils

Senate Executive Committee

Motion 3: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by N. Stevens that the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated January 9, 2025 be received.
CARRIED

Academic Curriculum Committee

Motion 4: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by T. McParland that the Report of the Academic Curriculum Committee (with the amendment that Motion 11 in the ACC Report be corrected from PHIL-2417 to PHIL-4217) dated December 2, 2024 be received.
CARRIED

Faculty of Arts & Science

Philosophy ([Click here to access the Philosophy Curriculum Map](#))

Substantive:

Motion 5: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by N. Colborne that Senate approve the creation of PHIL-2406 Ancient Philosophy and that it be added to the academic calendar as outlined in the template below.
CARRIED

Rationale:

With the loss of a permanent, dedicated specialist in Ancient Philosophy, PHIL no longer has the resources to commit to running two required courses in this area: This course will replace PHIL 2306 Plato and the Pre-Socratics, and PHIL 2307 Aristotle and the Schools, in our degree requirements. Because the 2000-level courses are also 'introductory' level, it is also appropriate to treat the course as a survey of ancient philosophy. This course will continue to serve the same learning expectations and degree expectations as PHIL 2306 and PHIL 2307.

Course Code	PHIL 2406
Course Title:	Ancient Philosophy
Course Credits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 credits <input type="checkbox"/> 6 credits <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Course Description: <i>Restricted to 50-75 words, student-focused, present tense and active voice)</i>	Students explore a selection of classic texts in early Western philosophy, especially the work of Plato and Aristotle, and engage with foundational issues in various areas of philosophy including ethics, epistemology, and metaphysics. Some consideration may also be given to the work of pre-Socratic philosophy, as well as to later Greek and Roman thought (Scepticism, Epicureanism, and Stoicism).
Course Prerequisite:	None
Course Corequisite:	None
Course Antirequisite:	PHIL 2306, PHIL 2307, PHIL 2305
List any restrictions: <i>For example, "This course is restricted to BPHE students".</i>	None
Is this a Topic Course? <i>Topic courses are courses that students can take more than once for credit.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Will this course have an Experiential Learning component as defined by the MCU?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Outline the department's plan for offering this course. <i>For example, consider how this course will be cycled, whether it replaces a current course, when it will first be offered, etc.</i>	This course will be offered every year, in place of PHIL 2306 and PHIL 2307
List the total hours and the weekly breakdown of hours by instructional method. Courses that are 3 credits must include at least 36 hours, while 6 credit courses must be at least 72 hours. <i>For example, Two hours of lecture and one hour of laboratory work per week. 36 hours total.</i>	Total Hours: <u> 36 </u> <u>Breakdown of hours per week</u> Clinical: _____ Independent Study: _____ Lecture: <u> 3 </u> Lab: _____ Practical: _____ Seminar : _____ Tutorial: _____ Service Learning: _____

<u>Is this course cross-listed? If so, with what department?</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <i>If yes, please written support from all departments/disciplines whose programs are affected by this proposal.</i>
<u>Program Implications:</u> <u>Is this a required course for a program, or part of a Group, Concentration, Stream, etc.?</u>	This change will reduce our required course offerings within Ancient Philosophy from 6 credits to 3 and enable us to be more flexible in our yearly scheduling and course development
Do the Learning Outcomes for this course have significant overlap with any other course(s) offered at Nipissing?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, include rationale:
Learning Outcomes (6-8 points, visible, measurable and in active voice) For detailed information on Learning Outcomes, please consult the Quality Assurance website.	Students who successfully complete this course will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate a developing knowledge of the thinkers, positions, texts and arguments studied in the course, including the relationships between these thinkers and texts; 2. Demonstrate insight into the classical Greek foundations of key 'western' values and beliefs; 3. Identify and explain key Greek/transliterated philosophical terms; 4. Demonstrate an enhanced capacity for critical thought through the identification and reconstruction of arguments, positions and presuppositions; 5. Demonstrate a developing sophistication of language, clarity of expression and argument in the production of written work; 6. Demonstrate a developing interpretative subtlety in assessing the reliability of some primary sources and more contemporary commentary and translations
Will this course have budgetary implications? (e.g. lab consumables, software, experiential learning, CASBU contract, library resources, honoraria for elder, travel, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No enter additional resources:
How will this course contribute to the program level outcomes?	This course is intended to make the same contributions as existing PHIL 2306 and PHIL 2307 (see curriculum map for details)
Who amongst your current faculty has the competencies to teach this course?	As a less specialized version of PHIL 2306 and PHIL 2307, focused on Plato and Aristotle, this course falls into basic teaching competence in Philosophy – i.e., any faculty member with a PhD in Philosophy could be expected to teach this course. Having said that, there would certainly be value added by having the course run by a specialist in Ancient Philosophy; however, since the retirement of Dr. Borody, we have lost that specialization.
How does this course contribute to the institution's commitments to equity, inclusive teaching,	This is a foundational course in Philosophy, an expected part of any Philosophy degree program anywhere in Canada; as such it is part of Nipissing's obligation to

accessibility, decolonization, Indigenous learning and sustainability?	support regional equity by offering comprehensive programming options in the North.
How will you communicate this new offering to students?	Webadvisor, Instagram, verbally

SYLLABUS**PHIL 2406 – Ancient Philosophy****Credits: 3****Hours: 36 (3h/wk)****Description:**

Students explore a selection of classic texts in early Western philosophy, especially the work of Plato and Aristotle, and engage with foundational issues in various areas of philosophy including ethics, epistemology, and metaphysics. Some consideration may also be given to the work of pre-Socratic philosophy, as well as to later Greek and Roman thought (Scepticism, Epicureanism, and Stoicism).

Learning Outcomes:

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Demonstrate a developing knowledge of the thinkers, positions, texts and arguments studied in the course, including the relationships between these thinkers and texts;
2. Demonstrate insight into the classical Greek foundations of key 'western' values and beliefs;
3. Identify and explain key Greek/transliterated philosophical terms;
4. Demonstrate an enhanced capacity for critical thought through the identification and reconstruction of arguments, positions and presuppositions;
5. Demonstrate a developing sophistication of language, clarity of expression and argument in the production of written work;
6. Demonstrate a developing interpretative subtlety in assessing the reliability of some primary sources and more contemporary commentary and translations.

Required Resources:

None

Assessment Strategies:

At least one course paper.

Method of Delivery:

Modality	Approach
X <input type="checkbox"/> Face-to-Face	<input type="checkbox"/> Synchronous
<input type="checkbox"/> Online	<input type="checkbox"/> Asynchronous
<input type="checkbox"/> Blended	<input type="checkbox"/> HyFlex
<input type="checkbox"/> Hybrid	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

Prerequisite(s): None**Antirequisite(s):** PHIL 2305, PHIL 2306, PHIL 2307**Corequisite(s):****Cross-Listed (if applicable):****Cross-Coded (if applicable):****Substantive:**

Motion 6: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by R. Veli that Senate approve the creation of PHIL-3767 Special Topics in Ethics and that it be added to the academic calendar as outlined in the template below.
CARRIED

Rationale:

The creation of this course will enable PHIL to offer a more flexible set of options for advanced students, in keeping with the broader changes being introduced to the degree requirements. It will also highlight the strengths of the program in ethics, at an advanced level.

Course Code	PHIL 3767
Course Title:	Special Topics in Ethics
Course Credits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 credits <input type="checkbox"/> 6 credits <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Course Description: <i>Restricted to 50-75 words, student-focused, present tense and active voice)</i>	This course will vary in specific focus from year to year, depending upon the expertise of the Instructor; but in each case, course content will concern some specific issue, question, text, or author in ethics. Students are advised that a more detailed outline of subject matter is provided on a year to year basis by the discipline.
Course Prerequisite:	30 Credits Completed
Course Corequisite:	None
Course Antirequisite:	None
List any restrictions: <i>For example, "This course is restricted to BPHE students".</i>	None
Is this a Topic Course? <i>Topic courses are courses that students can take more than once for credit.</i>	X Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Will this course have an Experiential Learning component as defined by the MCU?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes X No
Outline the department's plan for offering this course. <i>For example, consider how this course will be cycled, whether it replaces a current course, when it will first be offered, etc.</i>	This course will be cycled with other 3000-level offerings in PHIL. Whether it will first be offered in 2025-26 will depend on the timing of approval as well as faculty staffing.
List the total hours and the weekly breakdown of hours by instructional method. Courses that are 3 credits must include at least 36 hours, while 6 credit courses must be at least 72 hours. <i>For example, Two hours of lecture and one hour of laboratory work per week. 36 hours total.</i>	Total Hours: <u>36</u> <u>Breakdown of hours per week</u> Clinical: _____ Independent Study: _____ Lecture: <u>3</u> _____ Lab: _____ Practical: _____ Seminar: _____ Tutorial: _____ Service Learning: _____

<u>Is this course cross-listed? If so, with what department?</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <i>If yes, please written support from all departments/disciplines whose programs are affected by this proposal.</i>
<u>Program Implications:</u> <u>Is this a required course for a program, or part of a Group, Concentration, Stream, etc.?</u>	This course will offer an additional, upper-year credit in the "Ethics" list, for students majoring in PHIL.
Do the Learning Outcomes for this course have significant overlap with any other course(s) offered at Nipissing?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, include rationale:
Learning Outcomes <i>(6-8 points, visible, measurable and in active voice)</i> For detailed information on Learning Outcomes, please consult the Quality Assurance website.	Students who successfully complete this course will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate knowledge of some subfield within Ethics; 2. Demonstrate knowledge of the some of the core issues and positions within that subfield; 3. Demonstrate an ability to identify and reconstruct arguments in advanced philosophical texts; 4. Demonstrate an ability to produce philosophical arguments in written and oral forms; and 5. Demonstrate an ability to charitably interpret and respond to objections to their own views. 6. Demonstrate a developing ability to pursue an original program of research
Will this course have budgetary implications? <i>(e.g. lab consumables, software, experiential learning, CASBU contract, library resources, honoraria for elder, travel, etc.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No enter additional resources:
How will this course contribute to the program level outcomes?	This course will contribute to students' Depth and Breadth of Knowledge within Value Theory; help develop more advanced methods and skills in the identification, analysis, and construction of arguments; provide opportunities to apply this knowledge and skill set to novel and challenging ethical problems; and to communicate these achievements through philosophical writing, which put s a premium on charity of interpretation, clarity of expression, and awareness of limits of one's own argument.
Who amongst your current faculty has the competencies to teach this course?	Dr. David Borman, Dr. Sasa Stankovich
How does this course contribute to the institution's commitments to equity, inclusive teaching, accessibility, decolonization, Indigenous learning and sustainability?	Contributions will vary depending on the topic selected

How will you communicate this new offering to students?	Webadvisor, Instagram, verbally
--	---------------------------------

SYLLABUS**PHIL 3767 – Special Topics in Ethics****Credits: 3****Hours:36 (3hr/wk)****Description:**

This course will vary in specific focus from year to year, depending upon the expertise of the Instructor; but in each case, course content will concern some specific issue, question, text, or author in ethics. Students are advised that a more detailed outline of subject matter is provided on a year-to-year basis by the discipline.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of some subfield within Ethics;
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the some of the core issues and positions within that subfield;
3. Demonstrate an ability to identify and reconstruct arguments in advanced philosophical texts;
4. Demonstrate an ability to produce philosophical arguments in written and oral forms; and
5. Demonstrate an ability to charitably interpret and respond to objections to their own views;
6. Demonstrate a developing ability to pursue an original program of research.

Required Resources: None**Assessment Strategies:** At least one major course paper and assessment of oral arguments.**Method of Delivery:**

Modality	Approach
X <input type="checkbox"/> Face-to-Face	<input type="checkbox"/> Synchronous
<input type="checkbox"/> Online	<input type="checkbox"/> Asynchronous
<input type="checkbox"/> Blended	<input type="checkbox"/> HyFlex
<input type="checkbox"/> Hybrid	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

Prerequisite(s): 30 credits completed**Antirequisite(s):** None**Corequisite(s):****Cross-Listed (if applicable):****Cross-Coded (if applicable):****Non-substantive:**

That Senate approve that the course title of PHIL-1116 Introduction to Western Philosophy be changed to PHIL-1116 Introduction to Philosophy.

Rationale:

PHIL 1116 had been designated specifically as a course in Western Philosophy in deliberate contrast to the two PHIL courses in Eastern Philosophy. As a result of the loss of Dr. Borody, we no longer have the faculty expertise to teach those dedicated courses in Eastern Philosophy. It is appropriate therefore to loosen the description of Introduction to Philosophy to

allow faculty at least to introduce students to some non-Western philosophy, according to faculty competence.

The loss of expertise in Eastern philosophy diminishes the distinctiveness of the program at Nipissing, which had been noted repeatedly in IQAP assessments. However, because the Eastern Philosophy courses were not required, they were not embedded in the degree-level expectations; therefore, no change of those expectations is required.

Non-substantive:

That Senate approve that the course description for PHIL-1116 Introduction to Philosophy be changed as outlined below.

Old Description:

Students are introduced to the main concerns in the discipline of Philosophy within the Western tradition. Beginning with the ancient Greeks and ending with the 20th century, students explore some of the most significant issues that have engaged philosophers during each of the main periods of the long and complicated history of Western Philosophy.

New Description:

Students engage with some of the main concerns in the discipline of Philosophy from a historical perspective, beginning with the philosophy of the ancient world and ending with the 20th century. Students explore such significant issues as the nature of knowledge and reality, the good life, and the standards of sound reasoning. Specific content varies from year-to-year.

Rationale:

PHIL 1116 had been designated specifically as a course in Western Philosophy in deliberate contrast to the two PHIL courses in Eastern Philosophy. As a result of the loss of Dr. Borody, we no longer have the faculty expertise to teach those dedicated courses in Eastern Philosophy. It is appropriate therefore to loosen the description of Introduction to Philosophy to allow faculty at least to introduce students to some non-Western philosophy, according to faculty competence.

The loss of expertise in Eastern philosophy diminishes the distinctiveness of the program at Nipissing, which had been noted repeatedly in IQAP assessments. However, because the Eastern Philosophy courses were not required, they were not embedded in the degree-level expectations; therefore, no change of those expectations is required.

Substantive:

Motion 7: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by R. Wenghofer that Senate approve that the degree requirements for the Honours Specialization in Philosophy be modified as outlined below.
CARRIED

OLD REQUIREMENTS

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

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

PHIL 1116 or	Introduction to Western Philosophy or	3 cr.
PHIL 1117	Values and Human Condition	
PHIL 2306	The Pre-Socratics and Plato	3 cr.
PHIL 2307	Aristotle and the Schools	3 cr.

PHIL 2506	Thinking Clearly	3 cr.
PHIL 2507	Bullshit, Bias, and Propaganda: Reasoning about the Irrational	3 cr.
PHIL 3336	Reason and Experience in Modern Philosophy	3 cr.
PHIL 3337	Idealism and Its Critics	3 cr.
PHIL 4000 level		6 cr.
PHIL Upper level		33 cr.

NEW REQUIREMENTS

Honours Specialization

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

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

PHIL 2506	Thinking Clearly	3 cr.
PHIL 2507	Bullshit, Bias, and Propaganda	3 cr.
PHIL 4000 Level		6 cr.

9 credits in "History" from:

PHIL 1116 Introduction to Philosophy
 PHIL 2406 Ancient Philosophy
 PHIL 3336 Reason and Experience in Modern Philosophy
 PHIL 3337 Idealism and Its Critics
 PHIL 3476 Existentialism I
 PHIL 3706 Eastern Philosophy I: Confucianism, Taoism, and Zen
 PHIL 3707 Eastern Philosophy II: Classical Indian Philosophy

9 credits in "Value Theory" from:

PHIL 1117 Values and the Human Condition
 PHIL 2526 Contemporary Moral Issues
 PHIL 2706 The Right and the Good: An Introduction to Moral Philosophy
 PHIL 2716 Bio-Ethics
 PHIL 2717 Environmental Ethics
 PHIL 2816 Digital Ethics
 PHIL 3756 Special Topics in Social and Political Philosophy
 PHIL 3767 Special Topics in Ethics
 30 additional PHIL credits

Rationale:

These changes respond directly to recommendations contained in the IQAP report for PHIL. They aim to make the degree program more flexible for students, as well as for faculty-scheduling, and to accommodate the reality of only 2 full-time teaching loads, in combination with increased service contributions made by PHIL to other programs, particularly in ethics. They do not change the degree-level expectations for the program as a whole, though those same expectations will now be met through a reduced number of specific course requirements in the History of Philosophy.

Substantive:

Motion 8: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by R. Veli that Senate approve that the degree requirements for the Specialization in Philosophy be modified as outlined below.
CARRIED

OLD REQUIREMENTS

Students will need to achieve a minimum 60% average in the 54 credits presented for the Specialization in Philosophy.

Students must complete 120 credits including 54 credits in the Specialization as follows:

PHIL 1116 or PHIL 1117	Introduction to Western Philosophy or Values and the Human Condition	3 cr.
PHIL 2306	The Pre-Socratics and Plato	3 cr.
PHIL 2307	Aristotle and the Schools	3 cr.
PHIL 2506	Thinking Clearly	3 cr.
PHIL 2507	Bullshit, Bias, and Propaganda: Reasoning about the Irrational	3 cr.
PHIL 3336	Reason and Experience in Modern Philosophy	3 cr.
PHIL 3337	Idealism and Its Critics	3 cr.
PHIL 4206 or PHIL 4207	Seminar in Philosophy	3 cr.
PHIL Upper level		30 cr.

NEW REQUIREMENTS

Students will need to achieve a minimum 60% average in the 54 credits presented for the Specialization in Philosophy.

Students must complete 120 credits including 54 credits in the Specialization as follows:

PHIL 2506	Thinking Clearly	3 cr.
PHIL 2507	Bullshit, Bias, and Propaganda	3 cr.
PHIL 4000 Level		3 cr.

9 credits in "History" from:

PHIL 1116 Introduction to Philosophy
 PHIL 2406 Ancient Philosophy
 PHIL 3336 Reason and Experience in Modern Philosophy
 PHIL 3337 Idealism and Its Critics
 PHIL 3476 Existentialism I
 PHIL 3706 Eastern Philosophy I: Confucianism, Taoism, and Zen
 PHIL 3707 Eastern Philosophy II: Classical Indian Philosophy

9 credits in "Value Theory" from:

PHIL 1117 Values and the Human Condition
 PHIL 2526 Contemporary Moral Issues
 PHIL 2706 The Right and the Good: An Introduction to Moral Philosophy
 PHIL 2716 Bio-Ethics
 PHIL 2717 Environmental Ethics
 PHIL 2816 Digital Ethics
 PHIL 3756 Special Topics in Social and Political Philosophy
 PHIL 3767 Special Topics in Ethics
 27 additional PHIL credits

Rationale:

These changes respond directly to recommendations contained in the IQAP report for PHIL. They aim to make the degree program more flexible for students, as well as for faculty-scheduling, and to accommodate the reality of only 2 full-time teaching loads, in combination with increased service contributions made by PHIL to other programs, particularly in ethics. They do not change the degree-level expectations for the program as a whole, though

those same expectations will now be met through a reduced number of specific course requirements in the History of Philosophy.

Substantive:

Motion 9: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by R. Veli that Senate approve that the degree requirements for the Major in Philosophy be modified as outlined below.
CARRIED

OLD REQUIREMENTS

Students will need to achieve a minimum 60% average in the 36 credits presented for the Major in Philosophy.

Students must complete 36 credits in the Major as follows:

PHIL 1116 or PHIL 1117	Introduction to Western Philosophy or Values and the Human Condition	3 cr.
PHIL 2306	The Pre-Socratics and Plato	3 cr.
PHIL 2307	Aristotle and the Schools	3 cr.
PHIL 2506	Thinking Clearly	3 cr.
PHIL 2507	Bullshit, Bias, and Propaganda: Reasoning about the Irrational	3 cr.
PHIL 3336	Reason and Experience in Modern Philosophy	3 cr.
PHIL 3337	Idealism and Critics	3 cr.
PHIL Upper level		15 cr.

Note:

Students may complete an Honours BA double major if they obtain an overall average of 70% in each Major and complete an additional three credits (minimum) at the 4000 level in each Major. Please refer to the Degree Requirement section for further information.

NEW REQUIREMENTS

Students will need to achieve a minimum 60% average in the 36 credits presented for the Major in Philosophy.

Students must complete 36 credits in the Major as follows:

PHIL 2506	Thinking Clearly	3 cr.
PHIL 2507	Bullshit, Bias, and Propaganda	3 cr.

9 credits in "History" from:

PHIL 1116 Introduction to Philosophy
PHIL 2406 Ancient Philosophy
PHIL 3336 Reason and Experience in Modern Philosophy
PHIL 3337 Idealism and Its Critics
PHIL 3476 Existentialism I
PHIL 3706 Eastern Philosophy I: Confucianism, Taoism, and Zen
PHIL 3707 Eastern Philosophy II: Classical Indian Philosophy

9 credits in "Value Theory" from:

PHIL 1117 Values and the Human Condition
PHIL 2526 Contemporary Moral Issues
PHIL 2706 The Right and the Good: An Introduction to Moral Philosophy
PHIL 2716 Bio-Ethics
PHIL 2717 Environmental Ethics

PHIL 2816 Digital Ethics
 PHIL 3756 Special Topics in Social and Political Philosophy
 PHIL 3767 Special Topics in Ethics
 12 additional PHIL credits

Note:

Students may complete an Honours BA double major if they obtain an overall average of 70% in each Major and complete an additional three credits (minimum) at the 4000 level in each Major. Please refer to the Degree Requirement section for further information

Rationale:

These changes respond directly to recommendations contained in the IQAP report for PHIL. They aim to make the degree program more flexible for students, as well as for faculty-scheduling, and to accommodate the reality of only 2 full-time teaching loads, in combination with increased service contributions made by PHIL to other programs, particularly in ethics. They do not change the degree-level expectations for the program as a whole, though those same expectations will now be met through a reduced number of specific course requirements in the History of Philosophy.

Substantive:

Motion 10: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by B. Brown that Senate approve that the degree requirements for the Minor in Philosophy be modified as outlined below.
 CARRIED

OLD REQUIREMENTS

Students must complete 18 credits in Philosophy as follows:

PHIL 1116	Introduction to Western Philosophy	3 cr.
OR		
PHIL 1117	Values and the Human Condition	
PHIL 2306	The Pre-Socratics and Plato	3 cr.
OR		
PHIL 2307	Aristotle and the Schools	
PHIL Upper level		12 cr.

NEW REQUIREMENTS

PHIL 2506	Thinking Clearly	3 cr.
OR		
PHIL 2507	Bullshit, Bias, and Propaganda	3 cr.
6 credits in "History" from:		
PHIL 1116 Introduction to Philosophy		
PHIL 2406 Ancient Philosophy		
PHIL 3336 Reason and Experience in Modern Philosophy		
PHIL 3337 Idealism and Its Critics		
PHIL 3476 Existentialism I		
PHIL 3706 Eastern Philosophy I: Confucianism, Taoism, and Zen		
PHIL 3707 Eastern Philosophy II: Classical Indian Philosophy		
6 credits in "Value Theory" from:		
PHIL 1117 Values and the Human Condition		
PHIL 2526 Contemporary Moral Issues		
PHIL 2706 The Right and the Good: An Introduction to Moral Philosophy		
PHIL 2716 Bio-Ethics		

PHIL 2717 Environmental Ethics
PHIL 2816 Digital Ethics
PHIL 3756 Special Topics in Social and Political Philosophy
PHIL 3767 Special Topics in Ethics
3 additional PHIL credits

Rationale:

These changes respond directly to recommendations contained in the IQAP report for PHIL. They aim to make the degree program more flexible for students, as well as for faculty-scheduling, and to accommodate the reality of only 2 full-time teaching loads, in combination with increased service contributions made by PHIL to other programs, particularly in ethics. They do not change the degree-level expectations for the program as a whole, though those same expectations will now be met through a reduced number of specific course requirements in the History of Philosophy.

Non-substantive:

That Senate approve that PHIL-2306 The Presocratic and Plato and PHIL-2307 Aristotle and the Schools be deleted.

Rationale:

These courses are being replaced by a single course in Ancient Philosophy, as a consequent of faculty and scheduling constraints in the program.

Non-substantive:

That Senate approve that PHIL-4217 Seminar in Philosophy be deleted.

Rationale:

PHIL 4206 and PHIL 4207 satisfy the course level and program level learning expectations of PHIL 4217.

Non-substantive:

That Senate approve that the Course Description for PHIL-2526 Contemporary Moral Issues be changed as outlined below.

Old Description:

Students critically engage with a selection of significant moral problems for the individual and society. Topics may include: suicide, intimacy and sexual conduct, euthanasia, political correctness, fake news, drug use and abuse, racism, artificial intelligence, civil disobedience, capital punishment, and war. Through engagement with such issues, students explore philosophical positions on the possibility and nature of general moral standards.

New Description:

Students critically engage with a practical moral issue or issues of significant contemporary interest. While specific topics will vary from year-to-year depending on the Instructor, potential examples include: Ethical Issues in Harm Reduction Policy; Ethical Issues in the Opioid Crisis; Ethical Issues in Contemporary Sport; the Ethics of Reproductive Rights Today.

Rationale:

There is no required change to the learning expectations for this course, nor its contribution to the degree expectations.

Senate Research Committee

Motion 11: Moved by B. Law, seconded by B. Brown that the Report of the Research Committee dated December 12, 2024 be received.
CARRIED

Motion 12: Moved by B. Law, seconded by R. Veli that Senate approve the Centres & Institutes Policy as outlined in the attached document.
CARRIED

Other Business

The Provost requested direction from Senator Stevens on how Academic Curriculum Committee motions could better reflect her concerns for logical rationale that align with University commitments to reconciliation.

Elections

- Elect one (1) faculty Senate representative to serve on the Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance for a three-year term which ends June 30, 2027.

ACCLAIMED: Dr. Robin Gendron

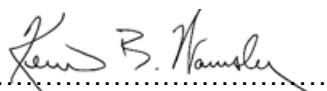
New Business

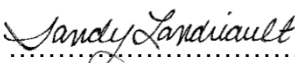
The following Notice of Motion was presented for inclusion in the next Senate agenda:

"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."

Adjournment

Senate adjourned at 3:30 p.m.


.....
K. Wamsley (Chair)


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

President's Senate Report

17 January 2025

The President welcomed Senators back to the first meeting of 2025. The President provided a very brief report, announcing that negotiation with the ParriagGroup have been completed and the firm should be on campus soon. Our thanks go to the Task Force for all of their hard work, and please note that the Task Force will be doing their utmost to have as many community members participate in the Equity Audit as possible so that we may work towards an inclusive campus. The President is focused upon government advocacy for the upcoming 2025-26 budget year and also meeting with donors to support research at Nipissing University and the new Student Research Opportunities Fund which has received \$28,000 in donations to date, including Giving Tuesday, end of year giving, and a generous match from a donor.

The President took the opportunity to discuss recent Senate meetings and to contextualize the issues that Senate has debated, including program pauses and program closures. The President also invited members who were online to rejoin Senate in person, particularly if they reside in North Bay.

The President reiterated the Board mandate of working toward a sustainable university and the principles shared with the Provost of improving high demand programs and ensuring the survival of the arts, humanities, and social sciences in a sustainable form. Programs must be approached creatively to support arts and humanities and to preserve the expertise of our professors. Sometimes this involves blending programs. He explained why we are invoking processes of enrolment pause and what the circumstances of closing programs would entail. He reminded Senate that it has full authority and responsibility to close programs, granted in the By-laws, granted by the Board, through the University Act. Unlike what has previously been stated at Senate, invoking the Collective Agreement would not be appropriate in this instance as the CA cannot compel or oblige the Senate to Act. This authority is fully Senate's. The CA serves to protect the rights of faculty members that may find themselves in a position of redundancy should there be no students to teach; but closing programs is a completely unrelated process. The President appealed to Senators to work together to create sustainable programs for the foreseeable future.



Board of Governors Report to Senate – January 2025

Board of Governors Meeting November 28, 2024

The Board of Governors met on Thursday, November 28, 2024, In the President's Boardroom (F303) and via Zoom remote conferencing.

The Board welcomed Cheryl Foy, President of Strategic Governance Consulting Services, who has been engaged to carry out a governance review, as funded through the Ontario Government's Efficiency and Accountability Fund. Ms. Foy has conducted both in-person and online surveys with members of the Board of Governors and Senate, with a final report expected for presentation in late January. The NOUS Group has been contracted to review the remaining mandated areas, which include academic programming, physical assets and facilities, collaborative procurement opportunities, and revenue generating opportunities.

The Board of Governors accepted the recommendation of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic to appoint Dr. Geoff Hartley as Vice-Chair, Training, Education, and Community Engagement of the Nipissing University Research Ethics Board (NUREB) for a three-year term.

The Board of Governors resolved to accept the recommendation of the Audit & Finance Committee to approve the 2025/26 Budget Process.

The Board of Governors endorsed the status of Nipissing University as a signatory to the Canadian Military Veteran and Family Connected Campus Consortium.

The Board of Governors next meets on February 13, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.



NUSU Academic Senate Report: January 2025

Happy New Year

NUSU would like to wish everyone a Happy 2025 and hope that everyone had a relaxing and happy break.

Academic Week

Academic Week will be held from Jan 13th-Jan 17th. This is a week full of events to connect students with different departments and services on campus, as well as having a fun week related to academia. The events include:

Monday, January 13th

- Goodie Bag Handout
- Are You Smarter Than a NUSU Exec outside the Campus Bookstore
- NUSU Spill and Chill in the OnTheRocks Space: a new event where students can sit at different roundtables to discuss common interests and topics of interest

Tuesday January 14th

- Academic Wheel and Hot Chocolate outside the Campus Bookstore

Wednesday January 15th

- Drop in Support at the Library: NUSU and Peer Support will be at the library for students to come and speak to
- Clue Night in the OnTheRocks Space: come use your detective skills to solve the unsolved cold case. Be the first team to solve to receive a prize!

Thursday January 16th

- Program Check-In: come to the NUSU Alumni Lounge to talk about future goals, how to plan, and how to destress when thinking about the future
- Disney Trivia in the OnTheRocks space

Friday, January 17th

- Brain Teaser Bonfire: passive event where students can solve brain teasers and riddles for a work break!

All Week

- Lakersopololy: students will complete challenges on Goosechase and be entered into a draw to win an airfryer!

**Out of Town Trip**

We are excited to announce that students will be taken to Sudbury on January 18th to visit Science North! Credits goes to Preston English and the NUSU Services Team for getting some tickets for students! It will be a fun trip and NUSU is excited for students to explore Science North in Sudbury!

NUSU Executive Director Elections

NUSU's Elections for Executive Directors are on its way. Callouts for the President, Vice-President, Finance & Administration, Vice-President, Advocacy & Awareness, and Vice-President, Student Life have gone out. The campaign period will occur between February 10th - February 19th. We are excited to meet the candidates and run the election. For more information, please reach out to exec@nusu.com