

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

Members Present:

K. Wamsley (Chair), G. Raymer, D. Iafrate, N. Black
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, P. Millar, C. Ricci, A. Schinkel-Ivy, T. Sibbald (Speaker), M. Sullivan, J. Thornborrow, R. Vanderlee, V. Williams
C. Irwin, O. Pokorny, R. Kasperavicius
F. Couchie, R. Veli
R. Hehn
H. Panchal, T. Miller, D. Cassanto

Absent With Regrets:

A. Graff, R. Hacquard, B. Law, N. Colborne,
J. Abbott, A. Hatef, S. Kariuki, H. Texiera, T. McParland, P. English, E. Bonneau, B. Brown

The Senate Speaker offered a Traditional Territory acknowledgement.

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

Motion 1: Moved by N. Black, seconded by R. Veli that the agenda of the Senate meeting of March 14, 2025 be approved.
CARRIED

Adoption of the Minutes of the Senate Meeting of: February 14, 2024

Motion 2: Moved by K. Srigley, seconded by T. Stewart that the minutes of the Senate meeting of February 14, 2025 be adopted.
CARRIED

Reading and Disposing of Communications

The Speaker announced that Dr. Natalya Brown was elected to fill the vacancy on the Search Committee for the Dean of Education and Professional Studies.

Reports From Other Bodies

The President's report, appended to the minutes, highlighted updates on the ParriagGroup equity audit, the NOUS report, and the positive position of the 2024-25 budget. He thanked and congratulated the faculty, students and staff that participated in the successful March Break Open House, the Dave Marshall Leadership Awards Ceremony, and the NU360 event. The full report is attached to the minutes.

The Board of Governors 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

In response to a request to include further detail in the Board of Governors Report to Senate, specifically regarding the vote, the University Secretary clarified that this information will be included in the Board's formal minutes. These minutes will be made available once they have been approved by the Board in April.

It was noted that the March 8 Open House received significant positive feedback from students and their supporters, with several comments stating that our Open House was the best. Appreciation was extended to all those involved. Additionally, a request was made for the Registrar to provide an update on applications and acceptances, to assist in clarifying progress in relation to the Strategic Enrollment Plan.

The Registrar reported that updates are available on the Dashboard, and that Chairs and Departments should have access to this information. Overall, applications are up by just over 5% compared to last year, reflecting an increase of 311 applications. In terms of offers, there has been a 15% increase in offers sent out compared to the same time last year, with 491 more offers extended. Acceptances have risen by 31%, with 246 more acceptances than last year. As of today, 1,021 applicants have accepted offers. For a breakdown by program, please contact the Registrar's Office.

It was noted that applications to the Faculty of Arts and Science are significantly lower compared to the Faculty of Education and Professional Studies. The Registrar acknowledged that applications have decreased in many Arts and Science programs, though this is consistent with trends observed in recent years and across the province. Education and Nursing programs, being high-demand areas, continue to see strong application numbers. Additionally, Project Integrate was successfully piloted this year, increasing touchpoints to engage with students in meaningful ways at key stages. The project was also piloted with STEM and BComm programs, yielding positive results with more students accepting offers. Plans are in place to expand the initiative to additional programs.

The Registrar provided an update on the March 19 Lunch & Learn, encouraging all to attend for insights into the Registrar's Office functions, including recruitment, admissions, registration, scheduling, and advising. The session will include opportunities for questions, idea-sharing, and collaboration. The Registrar's Office team is eager to support enrollment growth and services to students and invites meetings to discuss tailored data for your program. Together, Project Integrate, Nipissing's plan to increase enrollment and provide a student-centered service model, can be implemented. The Registrar's Office works one to two years in advance and is currently preparing for the Fall 2026 intake, so please keep this in mind as you prepare curriculum and/or policy changes.

The Associate Registrar, Recruitment, also advised that undergraduate applications are up 1.4%, and there has been an increase in acceptance rates for our Masters and BEd programs. The Faculty Call Campaign will be starting soon, please reach out if you are interested in participating.

A request was made for an update on the process for submitting course proposals and program changes, specifically regarding whether these should be submitted through the Centre for Teaching and Learning. It was noted that the Social Work program is awaiting feedback on proposed course modifications to be reviewed by ARC. The Registrar advised that the Registrar's Office is working with stakeholders, including the Provost and the Centre for Teaching and Learning, to process proposals.

In response to the Academic Curriculum Committee Report, Professor Laurie Kruk was recognized by the Speaker and spoke to her concerns regarding the University's commitment to breadth requirements for all programs and students, and the University's commitment to Academic Writing (as a breadth requirement), in the world of "AI". These questions will be communicated to the Provost for response at the next Senate meeting.

Reports of Standing Committees and Faculty or University Councils

Senate Executive Committee

Motion 3: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by N. Black that the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated March 6, 2025 be received.
CARRIED

Motion 4: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by R. Veli that the 2024-25 By-laws and Elections Committee Work Plan be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED

Academic Curriculum Committee

Motion 5: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by N. Black that the Report of the Academic Curriculum Committee dated February 12, 2025 be received.
CARRIED

Faculty of Arts & Science

Data Science: [Click here to access the Data Science Curriculum Map](#)

Substantive:

Motion 6: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by R. Veli that Senate approve the creation of DATA-1007, Programming for Data Science, be added to the academic calendar as outlined in the attached document.
CARRIED

Faculty of Education & Professional Studies

Nursing: Click here to access the [BScN Bridging On-Campus Curriculum Map](#)

Click here to access the [BScN On-Campus Curriculum Map](#)

Substantive:

Motion 7: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by N. Black that Senate considers motions 9-16 as an omnibus motion.
CARRIED

Substantive:

Motion 8: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by R. Veli that Senate approve motions 9-16 as an omnibus motion.
CARRIED

In response to a request for clarification on how the Academic Writing component will be replaced and whether it will be embedded in the Nursing program, it was explained that the Academic Writing course has not been effectively meeting the needs of the Nursing program. After three years of data collection and evaluation, it was determined that the course did not add value, and assessments showed no improvement in students' writing skills. While academic writing has always been taught within the program, the intention is to make this more explicit by incorporating clear learning outcomes. This curriculum change will facilitate greater engagement and alignment across the program, enhancing the overall educational experience. The removal of the Academic Writing course will also free up credits and space for other required courses, in response to accreditation standards. The Nursing program fully supports this decision, as it aligns with the program's needs and best interests.

Substantive:

Motion 9: That Senate approve the that the learning objectives for NURS 1006 Professional Nursing 1 be changed as outlined in the attached document.

Substantive:

Motion 10: That Senate approve the learning objectives for NURS 1516 Introduction to Health Concepts across the Lifespan be changed as outlined in the attached document.

Substantive:

Motion 11: That Senate approve the learning objectives for NURS 2036 Development of Nursing Knowledge be changed as outlined in the attached document.

Substantive:

Motion 12: That Senate approve the learning objectives for NURS 2047 Professional Nursing 2 be changed as outlined in the attached document.

Substantive:

Motion 13: That Senate approve the learning objectives for NURS 3116 Qualitative Health Research be changed as outlined in the attached document.

Substantive:

Motion 14: That Senate approve the learning objectives for NURS 3117 Quantitative Health Research be changed as outlined in the attached document.

Substantive:

Motion 15: That Senate approve the learning objectives for NURS 4067 Leadership and Change in Nursing Practice be changed as outlined in the attached document.

Substantive:

Motion 16: That Senate approve the removal of ACAD 1601 Academic Writing from the on-campus BScN and on-campus BScN (RPN Bridging) program requirements.
Motions 9-16, as omnibus, CARRIED

Prior Learning Assessment Recognition (PLAR)**Substantive:**

Motion 17: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by T. Horton that Senate approve the that Prior Learning Assessment Recognition (PLAR) be considered for eligible undergraduate programs, courses, and the Indigenous Foundations Pathway.
CARRIED

A request was made for clarification on what qualifies as appropriate prior learning and who is responsible for making this determination. The Registrar advised that the decision rests with faculty, who are responsible for recognizing students' prior experiences, including volunteer work. Students must demonstrate that they have met the relevant learning outcomes, and the assessment will be conducted by faculty. Each instance of PLAR will be handled in collaboration with faculty.

Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee (AQAPC)

Motion 18: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by N. Black that the Report of the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee dated February 21, 2025 be received.
CARRIED

A request was made to note in the Senate minutes that although the AQAPC report references that the Board of Governors approved the Program Admission Suspension Procedure, Senate has not accepted or endorsed this decision.

Motion 19: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by R. Veli that Senate receive the updated [Environmental Science Honours Specialization; Specialization; Major; Minor Program Proposal](#) for information.
CARRIED

Motion 20: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by V. Williams that Senate receive the updated [Data Science Proposal](#) for information.
CARRIED

By-laws and Elections Committee

Motion 21: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by M. Sullivan that the Report of the By-laws and Elections Committee dated February 19, 2025 be received.
CARRIED

Graduate Studies Committee

Motion 22: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by R. Veli that the Report of the Graduate Studies Committee dated January 10, 2025 be received.
CARRIED

Senate Budget Advisory Committee

Motion 23: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by T. Stewart that the Report of the Senate Budget Advisory Committee dated December 9, 2024 be received.
CARRIED

Amendment of By-laws

- **Notice of Motion that Senate approve that Article 6.0(a) be amended as outlined below (changes in bold and strikethrough):**

Rationale: Senate's 10-meeting schedule from September to June, was approved for the 2024-25 academic year. Members agreed it was effective and recommended continuing this schedule. It was suggested that Senate move to a 9-meeting schedule by removing the January meeting to better align with the work of Senate, as committee meetings don't occur over the December holidays.

6.0 Regular Senate Meetings

- (a) Unless otherwise determined and announced by the Senate Executive Committee, regular meetings of Senate shall normally be held ~~once a month~~ **on a 10-meeting schedule from September to June.**

- **Notice of Motion that Senate approve that Article 9.3 and 9.12 be amended as outlined below (changes in bold and strikethrough):**

Rationale: The Director of Teaching and Learning has attended ACC, AQAPC and TLC meetings as a guest all year and she shares vital information on long term planning and cyclical program reviews. The committees have requested that the Director be added to the membership. Members agreed to add the Director of Teaching and Learning as an ex-officio, non-voting member of both the Academic Curriculum Committee and the Teaching and Learning Committee, but further discussion will be required regarding the membership structure of the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee.

9.3 Academic Curriculum Committee

Ex Officio and Student Members:

- (i) the PVPA, or designate (Chair);
- (ii) the AVPRIGS, or designate;
- (iii) Faculty Deans, or designates;
- (iv) the Registrar, or designate;
- (v) the Executive Director, Library Services;
- (vi) the Director of Teaching and Learning (non-voting);**
- (vii) a Student Senator from the NUSU Executive;
- (viii) two (2) undergraduate student representatives; one elected from each Faculty by NUSU;
- (ix) one (1) graduate student representative.

9.12 Teaching and Learning Committee

Ex Officio and Student Members:

- (i) the Dean of Education and Professional Studies;
- (ii) the Director of Teaching and Learning (non-voting);**
- (iii) the Executive Director of Library Services, or designate;
- (iv) two (2) undergraduate student representatives; one elected from each Faculty;
- (v) one (1) graduate student representative.

- **Notice of Motion that Senate approve that Article 9.3 be amended as outlined below (changes in bold and strikethrough):**

Rationale: The Manager of Quality Assurance and Program Innovation has attended ACC and AQAPC and meetings as a guest all year and is ultimately responsible for our Quality

Assurance, Cyclical Program Reviews, and Final Assessment Reports, which are approved through AQAPC. The Manager oversees curricular changes under Quality Assurance and assists faculty redesign their programs to meet ACC standards, ensuring that what comes to ACC reflects, accurate, error-free information. Members agreed that the Manager of Quality Assurance and Program Innovation be added as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Academic Curriculum Committee but further discussion will be required regarding the membership structure of the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee.

9.3 Academic Curriculum Committee

Ex Officio and Student Members:

- (i) the PVPA, or designate (Chair);
- (ii) the AVPRIGS, or designate;
- (iii) Faculty Deans, or designates;
- (iv) the Registrar, or designate;
- (v) the Executive Director, Library Services;
- (vi) the Manager of Quality Assurance and Program Innovation (non-voting);**
- (vii) a Student Senator from the NUSU Executive;
- (viii) two (2) undergraduate student representatives; one elected from each Faculty by NUSU;
- (ix) one (1) graduate student representative.

Announcements

The NUSU VP Advocacy & Awareness announced the following incoming NUSU Executives, whose terms will commence on May 1, 2025:

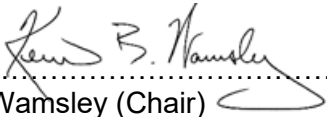
- NUSU President-Elect: Matthew Suszter
- NUSU VP Finance & Administration-Elect: Nicky Botham
- NUSU VP Advocacy & Awareness-Elect: Jaden Martin
- NUSU VP Student Life-Elect: Owen Remillard

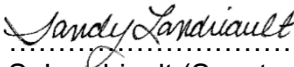
Senator Stevens expressed gratitude to all those who supported the Aanjibimaadsiwin Symposium on February 27. The event saw strong attendance and provided a valuable opportunity for students, many of whom had never participated in such an event before. A special thank you was extended to everyone involved in making the symposium a success.

The Speaker reminded of the Lunch & Learn with the Registrar's Office on March 19 at noon in F213. He also reminded that today was Pi Day, the International Day of Mathematics.

Adjournment

Senate adjourned at 3:25 p.m.


.....
K. Wamsley (Chair)


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

President's Senate Report

14 March 2025

Good afternoon Senators. As you have heard from our community meetings and from the email communications sent out, the ParriagGroup is here and is looking meet with people and to survey people on their experiences at Nipissing University. Information is available from these emails or on the Task Force website. The Task Force is encouraging as many people as possible to participate in the audit, so that data can be collected before the summer begins. Parriag is hosting its next community meeting on Tuesday at 3:00 pm in the theatre. A very clear schedule is available on Facebook.

Since our last Senate meeting, a Conservative government was returned in the Provincial election but the cabinet has not been finalized. We have started our advocacy for support for 2025-26 but have nothing to report at this point. We continue to move towards year end with positive budget news for 2024-25 and we are currently working on the 2025-26 budget.

The latest update on the NOUS report and the governance report is that we will receive a draft copy from NOUS today - what is required by the Provincial government is that the Board of Governors needs to see the document before it is submitted on March 31. Next week, the Board Executive and the full Board will see the document and will have the opportunity to make comments to NOUS. However, the work on assessing the recommendations and charting a course of action for the NOUS report and the governance report will happen after March 31. There will be a period of engagement of both the Board and Senate on the recommendations to determine what we will proceed with and what we will not and how and when these actions will be carried out. More information will be forthcoming – we aim to have Senate and Board approval for recommendations by the end of June.

Our thanks go to our staff for organizing an outstanding March Break Open House last Saturday. Thank you to our faculty and staff and volunteer students who greeted our guests and provided information to our potential students. More than 400 attended our Fair this year.

Congratulations to Barbi Law and staff for an outstanding NU360 evening with our researchers and to our five researchers who presented their work to a full venue. Please join us for the opening keynote address to kick off the undergraduate conference weekend to be followed by the 3-minute thesis event.

Congratulations to our staff for organizing the Dave Marshall Awards yesterday to a packed house celebrating the amazing accomplishments of 25 Nipissing students.

I will be meeting with Dave Drenth and our architects next week to review documents related to the tender process for our outdoor classroom. The RFP will be posted shortly.

Some renovations on our main entrance will take place at the end of March.

You are all invited to a special announcement on Monday at 11:00 am in the Alumni Lounge.



Board of Governors Report to Senate – March 2025

Board of Governors Meeting February 13, 2025

The Board of Governors met on Thursday, February 13, 2025, In the President's Boardroom (F303) and via Zoom remote conferencing.

The Board Vice-Chair noted that the meeting was the last meeting for members Kathy Wilcox and Joe Sinicrope. Mr. Sinicrope is eligible for a second term, and the Board awaits additional information on reappointment. Kathy Wilcox was thanked for her dedicated leadership on the Board Executive, as Chair of the Fundraising Committee and as Board Vice-Chair Pro Tem.

The Board of Governors appointed Judy Koziol and Ravil Veli to the President's Reappointment Committee.

Stephen Tedesco, Director of Institutional Analysis and Planning discussed the Strategic Mandate Agreement 4 (SMA4), which is structured very similarly to SMA3 and will span five years, beginning in 2025/26.

The Board accepted the recommendation of the Academic Senate and the Executive Committee to formally close the Scholar Practitioner Program (SPP) effective April 30, 2025.

The Board also accepted the recommendation of the Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance to approve the Suspension of Enrolment Procedures.

The Board of Governors next meets on April 24, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.



NUSU Academic Senate Report: March 2025

NUSU Executive Director Elections

NUSU's Elections for Executives are complete. The new Executives will be ratified at NUSU's next Board meeting, in the beginning of March. The preliminary results include congratulations to Nicholas Botham for being elected for Vice-President, Finance & Administration, Jaden Martin for Vice-President, Advocacy & Awareness, and Owen Remillard, for Vice-President, Student Life.

For Administration, Staff and Faculty, keep a lookout for emails from the past Executives as we would like to set up meetings for everyone to meet the new Executives!

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.
3. Social Science Formal: the Psych Society will be hosting a formal for all Undergrad students in the Social Sciences, on February 28th, starting at 9:30PM
4. Pangea Cup: The Geography Club is hosting the annual Pangea Cup on March 11th, starting at 6:00PM in Gym A at the Athletic Centre. This is a game where the students are vs the professors!
5. NUPHES Formal: the Nipissing University Physical Health and Education Society is hosting a formal on March 7th, starting at 7:00PM.

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 & Hot Chocolate w/ Access and Inclusion (outside Campus Bookstore)
- Wednesday March 12th: Plant & Picasso and Popcorn with MENTAL Strength (outside Campus Bookstore). Paint n' Sip (in OnTheRocks space)



NUSU Student Centre

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

Web: www.nusu.com

- 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