

Nipissing University
Minutes of the Academic Senate Meeting
April 11, 2025
2:30 p.m.
Room F210 & Zoom Videoconference

Members Present:

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

L. Chen, A. Hatef, G. McCann, G. Phillips (Deputy Speaker), S. Renshaw, N. Stevens, T. Stewart, D. Tabachnick, L. Thielen-Wilson, A. Weeks, R. Wenghofer, S. Winters,

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

C. Irwin, R. Kasperavicius

F. Couchie

R. Hehn

H. Panchal, T. Miller, D. Cassanto

Absent With Regrets:

R. Hacquard, D. Iafrate, J. Abbott, R. Gendron, S. Kariuki, K. Srigley, T. Smith, H. Texiera, H. Zhu, O. Pokorny, C. Greco, T. McParland, J. Thornborrow, R. Veli, P. English, E. Bonneau, B. Brown

The Senate Speaker offered a Traditional Territory acknowledgement.

Adoption of the Agenda of the Senate Meeting of: April 11, 2025

Motion 1: Moved by N. Black, seconded by G. McCann, that the agenda of the Senate meeting of April 11, 2025, be adopted with the amendment that Motion 10 be removed and included in the next Senate agenda to allow Senators adequate time to review the NU-IQAP New Program Proposal, as the provided document link was not functioning.
CARRIED

Adoption of the Minutes of the Senate Meeting of: March 14, 2025

Motion 2: Moved by G. McCann, seconded by S. Winters that the minutes of the Senate meeting of March 14, 2025 be adopted.
CARRIED

Business Arising From the Minutes

The Provost clarified the process for submitting course proposals and program changes, confirming that the existing procedure remains unchanged. Course proposals are reviewed by the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL), and the Deans to ensure a shared understanding of requirements across faculties. These reports are synthesized at the Faculty level before being forwarded to the Academic Curriculum Committee (ACC) for further consideration.

Reports From Other Bodies

The President's report, appended to the minutes, highlighted several key items. He recognized Research Month and acknowledged significant philanthropic contributions, including a \$1 million gift from John and Adrienne Peacock and a \$2 million endowed fund established by the Joyce Foundation. The President extended his congratulations to students, staff, and faculty for their collective efforts and achievements. He also informed Senate that Convocation ceremonies are scheduled to take place from June 10-12, 2025. Additionally, he was pleased to announce that the second annual fundraising event, *An Evening at Nipissing*, will be held on June 13, 2025.

The Provost and Vice-President Academic provided an oral report. She extended well wishes to students, faculty and staff during the exam period. She commended the Manager of Quality Assurance and Program Innovation, Robin Gibson, and Executive Assistant, Christine Benoit, for their exceptional work on the Quality Assurance Audit. A team of seven QA auditors were on campus for three days reviewing our QA processes from 2013 to present. We look forward to the QA review results.

An update on spring/summer enrolment was provided, noting that 553.9 FTE students are currently enrolled.

The Provost congratulated the Office of Research Services on a successful Research Month, highlighting the engagement of high school students and community members who served as judges in NU360 and 3MT. She emphasized the value of "town and gown" collaboration in fostering opportunities for conversations.

The Provost expressed appreciation to the Registrar, the Registrar's office team, and the Office of Institutional Planning for their efforts in organizing the March 19 Open House. This event served as an important opportunity to showcase the services offered across the institution and to reflect on the roles of various offices. As the University begins work on the Efficiency and Accountability Report, the Provost encouraged all members to consider whether we are operating at peak effectiveness and meeting our accountability to students.

The Provost announced that both the NOUS and Governance Review reports have been submitted to the province. She thanked all who contributed to these processes. The University Governance Committee and the Senate Executive Committee will jointly form a subcommittee to develop recommendations and an implementation plan for the Governance Review. The Audit & Finance Committee of the Board will meet to review and plan implementation of the NOUS Report recommendations. Final implementation plans will be presented for Board approval on June 25, 2025, with submission to the Ministry prior to June 30, 2025.

In response to a question from the last Senate meeting regarding the institution's commitment to academic writing, the Provost referenced the adopted Academic and Operational Plan, particularly the institutional learning outcomes. She emphasized outcome #1, which states that "graduates will analyse critically and creatively," and outcome #4, that graduates will

“communicate effectively upon their graduation.” These outcomes reflect a core institutional commitment from which programs are charged with backward engineering our degrees to ensure that students meet these institutional objectives. Senate through ACC provides oversight of these efforts.

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

Question Period

Senators asked the President various questions about the student protest which occurred on April 3. The President described, from his point of view, why the protest occurred and what the outcomes of the protest have been to date. He assured Senators that the important work that has been done to date will not be compromised; that a series of meetings with protestors and other students have been held and will be held in the near future; everyone remains invested in Reconciliation and we will continue along this path; the University's reputation will not be damaged, in fact, we are proud of our students who are thinking critically and putting theory into practice - it's the sign of a healthy university campus. Finally, the President implored all members of campus to participate in the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA) Audit conducted by the ParriagGroup to ensure that their voices are heard in the service of making this a more inclusive campus.

In response to a question regarding the low participation in the EDIA Audit to date, the President noted that the timing coincides with a busy end-of-year cycle for students, faculty and staff. He suggested that some individuals may prefer to complete the survey rather than participate in an interview. He emphasized that there is still an opportunity to provide responses through both the interview and the survey.

A question was raised regarding APOP Action #10, which tasks the Director of Teaching and Learning with convening an ad hoc committee to examine the use of artificial intelligence technologies in instructional settings, with a report due by April 30, 2025. It was noted that progress has stalled during the Director's leave; however, committee members have expressed their desire to continue the work, recognizing its urgency. In response, the Provost advised that she would appoint an Acting Chair in the Director's absence to ensure the committee's work can proceed. Graydon Raymer has agreed to serve as Acting Chair.

A question was raised regarding the status of breadth requirements related to Indigenous awareness. The Provost confirmed that the institutional learning outcomes reflect a commitment to ensuring all students develop knowledge of Anishnabek ways of knowing and being, which will be integrated and expand to program structures. Through curriculum mapping, the University is working to ensure that institutional outcomes are being achieved across all courses and programs. Extra curriculum opportunities and other experiential learning could also be recognized as part of students' overall development within a program.

Through APOP, the Schulich School of Education, School of Business, Social Work and Criminal Justice have been asked to provide a strategic vision of their programs. This will be a significant exercise as there has never been a forced alignment between an institutional and program level mission, vision, and value. Over its history, Nipissing has distinctively allowed its programs to be self-contained and attached to the institution but we have not aligned to strategic priorities. Work is also going on in A&S as well because the institutional outcomes are meant to be an opportunity to share commitments across the faculties. We are trying to move away from individuals solely doing the work in order to instantiate the work institutionally. Work

is going on in APOP and the University Management Group and the Deans and Associate Deans have the competencies to do this work. Conversations are evolving and we will be able to measure ourselves in term of effectiveness.

In response to a question as to whether the spring/summer enrollment numbers included the Indigenous summer education programs, and whether marketing on the programs is taking place, the Provost advised that the enrollment numbers she provided include the Indigenous summer education programs, and that marketing is ongoing.

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 April 3, 2025 be received.
CARRIED

Academic Curriculum Committee

Motion 4: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by N. Colborne that the Report of the Academic Curriculum Committee dated March 18, 2025 be received.
CARRIED

Faculty of Education & Professional Studies

Substantive:

Motion 5: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by G. Raymer that Senate approve that the course EDUC 1615 Special Education Part I - French as a Second Language Focus be added to the list of In-Service offerings as outlined in the attached document.
CARRIED

Substantive:

Motion 6: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by G. Raymer that Senate approve that the course EDUC 2285 Reading, Part II - French as a Second Language Focus be added to the list of In-Service offerings as outlined in the attached document.
CARRIED

Substantive:

Motion 7: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by G. Raymer that Senate approve that the course EDUC 3285 Reading, Specialist - French as a Second Language Focus be added to the list of In-Service offerings as outlined in the attached document.
CARRIED

Academic Calendar

Substantive:

Motion 8: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by G. Raymer that Senate approve the publication of the 2025/26 academic calendar, effective May 1, 2025.
CARRIED

The Provost thanked Senate for returning to the process of approving the academic calendar.

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 March 21, 2025 be received.
CARRIED

Senate Budget Advisory Committee

Motion 10: Moved by R. Wenghofer, seconded by S. Winters that the Report of the Senate Budget Advisory Committee dated February 21, 2025 be received.
CARRIED

Amendment of By-laws

Motion 11: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by G. Phillips that Senate approve that Article 6.0(a) be amended as outlined below:

6.0 Regular Senate Meetings

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

CARRIED

Motion 12: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by M. Sullivan that Senate approve that Articles 9.3 and 9.12 be amended as outlined below:

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.

CARRIED

Motion 13: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by M. Sullivan that Senate approve that Article 9.3 be amended as outlined below:

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.
- CARRIED

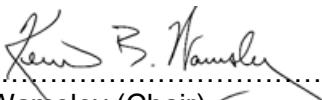
New Business

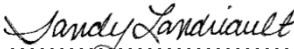
Motion 14: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by N. Black that Senate approve list of Senate meeting dates for the 2025-2026 academic year.
CARRIED

Senate Executive Committee Meeting Dates	Senate Meeting Dates
Thursday, September 4, 2025	Friday, September 12, 2025
Thursday, October 16, 2025	Friday, October 24, 2025
Thursday, November 13, 2025	Friday, November 21, 2025
Thursday, December 4, 2025	Friday, December 12, 2025
Thursday, January 22, 2026	Friday, January 30, 2026
Thursday, February 19, 2026	Friday, February 27, 2026
Thursday, March 19, 2026	Friday, March 27, 2026
Thursday, April 16, 2026	Friday, April 24, 2026
Thursday, May 14, 2026	Friday, May 22, 2026
Thursday, June 4, 2026	Friday, June 12, 2026

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

11 April 2025

Good afternoon Senators. As we are in the middle of final examinations, I want to wish our students all the best and professors too for the grading period, and our staff for all of the work they will do to get us from this point to Convocation and to enable students to return in the following term. I want to add my voice to congratulating the office of Research, Innovation, and Graduate Studies for a spectacular research month. The quality of work was outstanding – our professors played to a packed house for NU360; the keynote address and the work of our students for our undergraduate conference was first rate; and the quality of the 3MT was very, very good. Thanks to everyone who played a role in making this year's events so successful.

Since the last Senate meeting, we have had the pleasure of announcing a generous \$1m gift from John and Adrienne Peacock. These funds will be spent over the next five to six years and will be directed towards undergraduate research in the field, post doctoral research fellowships, and activities related to Reconciliation on our campus. We are also the recipients of a \$2m endowed fund from the Joyce Foundation which will provide tuition support to 12 students spread out over four-year cycles in perpetuity.

Convocation has been set for June 10 to June 12. We are working on scheduling an outstanding slate of honorary doctorate candidates and will be announcing those candidates very soon.

Our second annual fundraising dinner – An Evening at Nipissing will be held on June 13. This year we are continuing to celebrate research at Nipissing University and all proceeds from the dinner will go to the Student Research Opportunities Fund which will add to our Day of Giving and Year End Giving funds and will add to the Peacock gift. We will have a very strong program of supporting undergraduate research at Nipissing University for at least the next five years, which will certainly enhance the student experience, will increase our research capacity and productivity, and will enhance our national reputation to attract the next cohorts of students. We are working on policies and procedures and terms of reference for these awards and will be sure to communicate these terms to everyone.



NUSU Academic Senate Report: April 2025

NUSU Executives Start May 1st

The Outgoing NUSU Executives want to thank staff, administration, and faculty for the past year. We, as student leaders, have learnt a lot and are excited for what's to come in our futures.

NUSU Food Pantry

We have updated our Emergency Food Bank to now be called the NUSU Food Pantry. This is to decrease stigmatization and the stereotypes that come with a Food Bank or using the Food bank. The Food Pantry includes different kinds of food for students, including dietary and food restrictions.

Equity Audit with ParriagGroup

The NUSU Executives have had two meetings with Amanda from ParriagGroup discussing the Equity Audit and equity on campus. These have been great discussions, and we are excited for the recommendations that will come from this audit!

Good Luck on Exams

We want to wish all students good luck on their upcoming final exams! We are here to support in any way we can.