

Meeting Book - June Meeting of the Academic Senate

June 12, 2026 - Senate Agenda

1. Acknowledgement of the Traditional Territory

As we begin this Nipissing University Senate meeting, I would like to acknowledge that we are in the territory of the Robinson-Huron Treaty of 1850 and that the land on which we gather is the Nipissing First Nation Traditional Territory and the traditional territory of the Anishinabek. We respect and are grateful to hold this event on these lands with all our relations.

2. Approval of the Agenda

That the agenda of the June 12, 2026, Senate meeting be approved.

Motion 1

3. Adoption of Minutes

That the minutes of the May 22, 2026, Senate meeting be approved.

Motion 2

- i. May 22, 2026 DRAFT Senate Minutes and Reports.pdf

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

5. Reading and Disposing of Communications

6. Reports from Other Bodies

- i. President

No Report

- ii. Provost & Vice-President Academic

APOP Annual Report Presentation

- iii. Vice-President Finance and Administration

No Report

- iv. Board of Governors

No Report

- v. Alumni Advisory Board

- a. 26-06 - NUAAB Report to Senate.pdf

- vi. Council of Ontario Universities (Academic Colleague)

- a. COU Report to Academic Senate 13 May 2026.pdf

- vii. Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance

No Report

- viii. Nipissing University Student Union (NUSU)

- a. NUSU Academic Senate Report_ June 2026.pdf

- ix. Other

7. Question Period

8. Reports of Standing Committees and Faculty Councils

i. Senate Executive Committee

That Senate receive the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated June 4, 2026.

Motion 3

a. Senate Exec Report June 4, 2026.pdf

ii. Academic Appeals and Petitions Committee

That Senate receive the Annual Report of the Academic Appeals and Petitions Committee dated May 26, 2026.

Motion 4

a. AAPC 2026annualreport.pdf

iii. Academic Awards Committee

That Senate receive the Annual Report of the Academic Awards Committee dated May 26, 2026.

Motion 5

a. AAC 2026annualreport.pdf

iv. Academic Curriculum Committee

That Senate receive the Annual Report of the Academic Curriculum Committee dated May 26, 2026.

Motion 6

a. 2026 Annual Report of the ACC.pdf

v. Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee (AQAPC)

That Senate receive the Report of the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee dated May 29, 2026.

Motion 7

a. AQAPC Senate Report May 29, 2026.pdf

vi. Graduate Studies Committee

Motion 8: That Senate receive the Report of the Graduate Studies Committee dated April 24, 2026.

Motion 8-9

Motion 9: That Senate receive the Annual Report of the Graduate Studies Committee dated May 29, 2026.

a. GSC Report to Senate - April 2026.pdf

b. Annual Report of the Graduate Studies Council 2025-2026.pdf

vii. Honorary Degrees Committee

That Senate receive the Annual Report of the Honorary Degrees Committee dated May 15, 2026.

Motion 10

a. 2026-05-15 - Hon Deg Annual Report.pdf

viii. Senate Budget Advisory Committee

That Senate receive the Report of the Senate Budget Advisory Committee dated May 12, 2026.

Motion 11

a. SBAC Senate Report May 12, 2026.pdf

ix. Senate Research Committee

That Senate receive the Annual Report of the Senate Research Committee dated May 29, 2026.

Motion 12

a. Annual Report of the Senate Research Committee 2025-2026.pdf

x. Teaching and Learning Committee

Motion 13: That Senate receive the Report of the Teaching

Motion 13-15

and Learning Committee dated April 27, 2026.

Motion 14: That Senate receive the Report of the Teaching and Learning Committee dated May 28, 2026.

Motion 15: That Senate receive the Annual Report of the Teaching and Learning Committee dated May 28, 2026.

- a. TLC Report to Senate 20260427.pdf
- b. TLC Report to Senate 20260528.pdf
- c. Teaching & Learning Committee Annual Report - 2025-2026.pdf

9. Other Business

10. Amendments of By-Laws

Motion 16: That Senate approve that Article 1.1(y) of the Senate By-laws be amended as outlined below.

- i. Amendment of Bylaws - June 12, 2026.pdf

11. Elections

- *Elect three (3) faculty Senate representatives to serve on the Senate Budget Advisory Committee for three (3) year terms effective now to June 30, 2029.*

12. New Business

June 2026 Graduate Counts

13. Announcements

14. Adjournment

Motion 16

Nipissing University
Minutes of the Academic Senate Meeting
May 22, 2026
10:30 a.m.
Room F210 & Zoom Videoconference

Members Present:

K. Wamsley (Chair), C. Richardson, R. Hacquard, B. Law, G. Raymer, D. Iafrate, N. Black

R. Davis, H. Earl, R. Gendron, K. Lucas, G. McCann, G. Phillips (Deputy Speaker), T. Smith, S. Srigley, L. Thielen-Wilson

A. Adler, J. Allison, C. Anyinam, S. Cairns, T. Horton, D. Jarvis, A. Kociolek, A. Leblond, P. Maher, P. Millar, A. Nkurunziza, C. Ricci, A. Schinkel-Ivy, J. Thornborrow, V. Williams

C. Irwin, R. Kasperavicius

F. Couchie

R. Hehn

J. Martin, N. Botham

Absent With Regrets:

N. Colborne, A. Hatef, S. Kariuki, P. Nosko, M. Owens, K. Srigley, T. Stewart, H. Texiera, R. Vernescu, H. Zhu, C. Greco, R. Hoffman, M. Sullivan, I. Tavares, O. Pokorny, O. Remillard, L. Lloyd, H. Konadu, D. Lamirande

The Senate Speaker offered a Traditional Territory acknowledgement.

Adoption of the Agenda of the Senate Meeting of: May 22, 2026

Motion 1: Moved by J. Allison, seconded by N. Black that the agenda of the Senate meeting of May 22, 2026, be adopted.
CARRIED

Adoption of the Minutes of the Senate Meeting of: April 24, 2026

Motion 2: Moved by S. Srigley, seconded by A. Kociolek that the minutes of the Senate meeting of April 24, 2026, be adopted as amended to include the resignation letter of the former Chair of the Senate Budget Advisory Committee.
CARRIED

Reading and Disposing of Communications

The Provost's Annual Tenure and Promotion Report 2025-26 was provided. The Provost extended congratulations to the faculty members that were awarded tenure and/or promotion and expressed appreciation to the Tenure and Promotion Committee.

Reports From Other Bodies

The President provided an oral report, highlighting a recent visit by the Deputy Minister of Colleges and Universities, David Wai, who toured the University campus, including all the buildings. This visit was part of a broader regional tour of postsecondary institutions in Northern Ontario, which also included stops at Canadore College and the colleges in Sudbury. Discussions focused on ongoing funding matters, including anticipated challenges for 2027–28 related to the conclusion of various streams of one-time or limited term funding. The Ministry is well aware of the progress toward financial sustainability over the past several years at Nipissing University. Transfer Payment Agreements have not yet been finalized and remain under development; updates will be provided as they become available.

The President also met with the Ontario Minister of Colleges and Universities, Nolan Quinn, Premier Doug Ford, and MPP Vic Fedeli, to discuss the funding model and the new Community Planning Program. The initiative has received strong support from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and is expected to generate hundreds of student placement opportunities over the coming years. Start-up costs will be fully supported through external funding, including resources for student support services. Further details and a formal announcement are expected soon, with the first cohort expected to enter in September 2027.

The search for a new Provost is progressing, with the selection committee moving closer to a decision soon. The hiring process is also underway for the new Director of Human Rights and Equity position.

Preparations for convocation are ongoing, and everyone was encouraged to attend. An official opening event for the Outdoor Classroom will be announced shortly.

The Provost and Vice-President Academic (PVPA) provided an oral report noting that significant work has been underway with APOP. A comprehensive presentation, including key summaries and identified challenges, will be delivered at the next Senate meeting. This presentation will also provide an opportunity for members to review progress and consider a potential reset moving forward.

Additionally, the PVPA advised that Faculty group photographs will be taken following each convocation ceremony. Further details regarding this initiative will be shared in the coming weeks.

The Vice-President, Finance and Administration (VPFA) presented the 2026-27 operating, ancillary, capital, and multi-year budgets, noting projected strong year-end results for 2025–26, with positive variances to be invested in reserve funds. A consolidated surplus of approximately \$1.7M is projected for 2026–27, providing a stronger financial foundation. The budget reflects conservative assumptions in response to ongoing provincial funding uncertainty, including reliance on one-time funding and the final year of sustainability top-up grants.

The operating budget includes modest revenue growth from domestic enrolment increases and approved tuition adjustments, alongside targeted government grant increases. Expense growth

is driven primarily by salaries and benefits, approved instructional and non-instructional positions, and prioritized investments in academic renewal, systems modernization, and space optimization. The budget includes defined contingencies and in-year allowances to address identified risks, emerging needs, and initiatives aligned with APOP and related reviews.

The ancillary budget reflects improved financial performance, supported by refined cost allocation, pricing adjustments, and operational efficiencies, with continued efforts to move all ancillary units toward break-even or surplus positions. The proposed capital budget of approximately \$4.7M includes workspace renovations, energy monitoring investments, classroom and washroom upgrades, and ongoing infrastructure maintenance, funded primarily through grants and donations.

A multi-year forecast was presented for planning purposes, indicating potential future deficits under conservative assumptions, largely related to expiring one-time funding and funding-formula uncertainty. Financial accountability ratios continue to improve, with spendable reserves projected to exceed prior targets, and cash flow projections confirm no anticipated need for additional borrowing. Our reserves are at a good level as we go forward with the refinancing of our long-term debt, and this should be favourable with the banks.

The VPFA expressed appreciation to the Integrated Budget and Planning Committee, as well as to the following individuals for their contributions: Karen Charles, Interim Director of Finance; Bojan Alimpic, Manager of Financial Reporting; Heather Daoust, Manager of Data Analytics and Reporting; and Stephen Tedesco, Director of Institutional Planning and Analysis. The VPFA welcomed questions and feedback from members. The full 2026–27 Budget Report is available on the website.

A report from the Board of Governors was provided. The report is appended to the minutes.

A report from the Council of Ontario Universities Academic Colleague was provided. The report is appended to the minutes.

Question Period

In response to a question regarding how much salary and benefits make up of our budget, and whether this amount is typical of other universities, and how much we have in our reserves and how much we are spending on, the VPFA requested that the question and calculations be forwarded to her for response. She advised that our reserves will be reaching the \$22 million mark with our 2025-26 budget results, and it is too early to tell for the 2026-27. Further information will be disclosed at the Audit and Finance Committee in the fall once the budget has been finalized.

In response to a question regarding expenditures on capital costs and renovations, the VPFA clarified that the capital budget does not include items such as painting, as these are considered maintenance and minor renovation expenses and are therefore accounted for within the regular operating budget. The VPFA further explained that capital expenditures are typically reserved for more significant projects, such as major repairs and upgrades (e.g., roof repairs, etc.).

In response to a question regarding the University's reserve goals and the proportion of the budget allocated to renovations, it was noted that the current reserve target is approximately \$22 million to meet financial accountability ratios. Updated targets will be developed and communicated in the fall.

The importance of maintaining adequate reserves to support the long-term financial health of the University was emphasized, and a request was made for ongoing transparency from Senior Administration regarding how reserves are allocated and the goals associated with them. It was further noted that the University's expenditures are largely driven by salaries and benefits, which are in line with sector norms. While the province has suggested a reserve level of \$50 million, the current \$22 million level is considered to provide stability, particularly in managing potential in-year deficits.

The University's goal over the coming years is to achieve balanced budgets and avoid additional long-term debt. Significant progress has been made in reducing our long-term debt, which currently stands at approximately \$30 million. Maintaining reserves is also important for negotiations of the renewal of the long-term debt.

It was also noted that, within a consolidated budget exceeding \$100 million, funds have been set aside for specific projects such as residence renovations. Further discussions will continue as part of developing a comprehensive reserves strategy aligned with financial ratios and institutional needs.

In response to a question regarding the University's credit standing, the VPFA advised that the institution currently holds a BBB (stable) credit rating and is projected to maintain this standing. The VPFA also noted that for a smaller university to achieve an AAA rating, significantly higher reserves would be required. The province has indicated that it is satisfied with the University's current BBB (stable) rating.

A question was raised regarding transparency around administrative salary adjustments and whether additional changes are anticipated following the current budget. It was noted that while fair compensation is supported, clearer communication of budget-related changes is important to support informed academic planning and avoid unexpected disclosures.

In response, it was clarified that individual salaries and contract details are confidential and not reported to Senate. Administrative salary adjustments were conducted by the Board of Governors in accordance with collective agreements and established processes, with required disclosures shared with unions in advance. It was emphasized that the University does not publicly report individual salary increases and that all employees are treated consistently in this regard. It was further clarified that the intent was to address overall budget transparency and the awareness of broader compensation-related processes rather than specific individual salaries.

The Deputy Speaker reiterated the importance of discernment in distinguishing between appropriate inquiries related to Senate business and those concerning individual financial matters. While individual salaries are not considered appropriate for Senate discussion, it was emphasized that budget information is essential for informed decision-making. Senators are encouraged to consider financial constraints in academic planning, and it is appropriate for Senate to ask probing questions about budget priorities and allocations, given their direct impact on academic programming.

Question submitted by Senator Susan Srigley:

I'd like to start by thanking my colleagues from the Ad Hoc Committee on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Instructional Settings and their report to this Senate.

As someone whose research and teaching are in the Humanities, I am encouraged to see that across the reports coming out concerning AI and the university, there is:
"Strong consensus that certain elements of education must remain "irreducibly human,"

including ethical reasoning, creativity, and relational learning.” (May 22nd COU Report to Senate)

So, while I look forward to seeing Nipissing’s response to our ad hoc committee’s recommendations in their report, I would like to address something quite relevant to this discussion, and more immediately on our horizon, namely the Dean of Arts and Science’s recommendation to suspend enrollments in the Philosophy program at Nipissing.

The COU report in the documents for today’s Senate notes the need for an emphasis on: “the importance of **arts, humanities, and social sciences** in contextualizing technological change.” (COU Report)

If Nipissing’s response to some of these very critical concerns about AI in the university sector are going to have real substance and meaning, and we are going to take the threats to the future of education by AI seriously, how can we even consider closing one of the fundamental programs in the humanities whose very purpose is to ask the question of what it means to be human?

The Provost responded on behalf of the Dean of Arts & Science, who was not present, noting that she could not provide a fulsome response at this time. She advised that the matter had not yet come forward to the Provost or Senate, but indicated that if it does, Senate would be an appropriate forum for further discussion.

A Senator expressed support for Senator Srigley and stated that, to her knowledge, the majority of faculty support maintaining the Philosophy program.

The Associate Dean of Arts and Science advised that this item is scheduled for discussion at the upcoming Arts & Science Faculty Council meeting on May 29.

Questions submitted by Dr. Sarah Winters, Associate Professor of English Studies:
I have two questions about the Knowb4 "Cybersecurity Training: AI Chatbots Module" which I completed on Wednesday.

The module begins by asking how we feel about AI and offering us some options. I chose "Concerned" and received a response that told me I should find AI inspiring in my work and personal life. Why we are being told how to feel about AI in both our work and personal life under the guise of mandatory security training?

The second attached screenshot is a list of Dos and Don'ts that includes "Do rewrite or paraphrase AI-generated information into your own words to avoid plagiarism." Why we are being trained to do something in direct contradiction to our own Academic Integrity Policy that defines plagiarism as:

"Claiming, submitting, or presenting the words, ideas, artistry, drawings, images, or **data** of another person, or **by Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, including information found on the Internet and unpublished materials, as if they are one’s own, **without appropriate acknowledgment or citation**"?

<https://www.nipissingu.ca/sites/default/files/policies/academic-integrity-policy.pdf>

The VPFA thanked Dr. Winters for submitting her questions in advance and explained that University Technology Services (UTS) selects cybersecurity and AI training content from a broad library, tailored to a university context. Feedback regarding references to policies and

training will be reviewed, and efforts will be made to address the concerns raised and to improve the training, with updates expected. The VPFA expressed appreciation for the feedback from faculty, staff, and UTS.

Reports of Standing Committees and Faculty or University Councils

Senate Executive Committee

Motion 3: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by D. Iafrate that the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated May 14, 2026, be received.
CARRIED

Academic Curriculum Committee

Motion 4: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by N. Black that the Report of the Academic Curriculum Committee dated May 7, 2026, be received.
CARRIED

Faculty of Arts & Science

Computer Science and Mathematics (*Proposal #FAS-2526-00099*)

Substantive

Motion 5: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by G. Raymer that Senate approve the creation of MATH-4066 Topology as outlined in the template.
CARRIED

Non-substantive

That the prerequisite MATH-3166 be removed from MATH-5066.

Non-substantive

That MATH-3166 Topology be deleted.

Non-substantive

That the prerequisite for MATH-1267 Applied Health Statistics be changed as outlined in the proposal.

By-laws and Elections Committee

Motion 6: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by F. Couchie that the Report of the By-laws and Elections Committee dated April 30, 2026, be received.
CARRIED

Senate Research Committee

Motion 7: Moved by B. Law, seconded by N. Black that the Report of the Senate Research Committee dated April 27, 2026, be received.
CARRIED

Teaching and Learning Committee

Motion 8: Moved by G. Raymer, seconded by J. Martin that the Report of the Teaching and Learning Committee dated February 26, 2026, be received.
CARRIED

Motion 9: Moved by G. Raymer, seconded by N. Botham that the Report of the Teaching and Learning Committee dated March 26, 2026, be received.
CARRIED

Ad Hoc Committee on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Instructional Settings

The Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Instructional Settings thanked committee members for their contributions over a process spanning more than a year. The work, initiated through the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) benefited from diverse perspectives on AI, which enriched the discussion and informed the report's recommendations. The report reflects a balance between safeguarding pedagogical foundations and recognizing the potential of AI to support teaching and learning, as well as the importance of AI literacy for faculty, staff, and students.

The report is being brought forward to Senate for initial review, with further discussion scheduled at the upcoming TLC meeting on May 28. Implementation planning will follow, involving multiple committees and administrative units, with governance shared across the institution. Further discussions are expected at the June Senate meeting and throughout the next academic year. Questions and feedback were welcomed.

Senators strongly endorsed the report, describing it as thorough and timely, noting the significant implications of AI for universities and the broader knowledge landscape. Senators were encouraged to read and share the report widely across the university community. In response to a question regarding implementation, it was noted that responsibility now rests with Senate and its committees, supported by the CTL. As an ad hoc committee, its work transitions into ongoing efforts across multiple bodies, reflecting the evolving nature of AI. A key recommendation includes developing a university-wide framework to guide consistent approaches.

The Deputy Speaker reiterated that this report originated from Senate and will return to Senate for consideration and action. Responsibility for advancing and implementing the recommendations is shared across the institution, as the report has implications for all areas of the University. Congratulations were extended to the Ad Hoc Committee for its work.

Motion 10: Moved by G. Raymer, seconded by J. Allison that Senate receive the Final Report and Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Instructional Settings dated May 11, 2026.
CARRIED

Amendment of By-laws

- **Notice of Motion that Article 1.1 of the Senate By-Laws be amended as outlined below (*revisions in bold*):**

1.1 General Definitions

- (y) **“non-voting” means a committee member appointed for their expertise in relation to the Committee’s Terms of Reference. They are permitted to speak but are not permitted to vote or make motions.**

- **Notice of Motion that Article 2.1 of the Senate By-Laws be amended as outlined below (*revisions in bold and strikethrough*):**

2.1 *Ex Officio* Senators

- (a) The following shall be *ex officio* voting members of Senate:
- (i) the President;
 - (ii) the Provost Vice President Academic;
 - (iii) The Vice President responsible for Finance and Administration
 - (iv) The Associate Vice-President Research, Innovation and Graduate Studies;
 - (v) the Deans;
 - (vi) the Registrar;
 - (vii) the Executive Director, Library Services; and
 - (viii) the Director of the Office of Indigenous Initiatives;**
 - (ix) the Director of the Centre for Teaching and Learning.**

- **Notice of Motion that Article 9.4.1 of the Senate By-Laws be amended as outlined below (*revisions in bold*):**

9.4.1 Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee (AQAPC)

- (b) *Ex Officio* and Student Members:
- (i) the PVPA, or designate (Chair);
 - (ii) the AVPRIGS or designate;
 - (iii) all Deans, or designates;
 - (iv) the Registrar, or designate;
 - (v) the Director of Institutional Research and Planning;
 - (vi) the Executive Director, Library Services;
 - (vii) the Director of the Office of Indigenous Initiatives;**
 - (viii) the Director of the Centre for Teaching and Learning;**
 - (ix) the Manager of Quality Assurance and Program Innovation (non-voting)
 - (x) one (1) representative chosen by and from the Board of Governors;
 - (xi) one (1) student Senator from the NUSU Executive or designate;
 - (xii) one (1) undergraduate student representative;
 - (xiii) one (1) graduate student representative.

- **Notice of Motion that Article 9.12 of the Senate By-Laws be amended as outlined below (*revisions in bold and strikethrough*):**

9.12 Teaching and Learning Committee

- (a) *Ex Officio* and Student Members:
- (i) the Dean of Education and Professional Studies*;
 - (ii) the Director of Teaching and Learning **(Chair) (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.

~~*The Dean of Education and Professional Studies will serve as pro tem Chair and call the first meeting of the Committee in September to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair.~~

- (b) Members Elected by Faculty Council:
- ~~(i) four (4) Faculty Senators, with at least one (1) from each Faculty; one of whom shall be elected to serve as Vice-Chair;~~
 - (ii) two (2) non-Senator Faculty; one elected from each Faculty;

Elections

- Elect three (3) faculty Senate representatives to serve on the Senate Budget Advisory Committee for three (3) year terms effective now to June 30, 2029.
No nominations were received for the above positions. The Deputy Speaker emphasized the importance of faculty representation on Senate and Senate Standing Committees

and encouraged Senators to consider putting their names forward for these roles. The elections will be included in the June 12, 2026, Senate meeting agenda.

New Business

Motion 11: Moved by D. Iafrate, seconded by G. Raymer that Senate grant approval to graduate the students who have completed their degree requirements prior to June 12, 2026.
CARRIED

Adjournment

Senate was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

.....
K. Wamsley (Chair)

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

Provost's Annual Tenure and Promotion Report 2025-26

In accordance with the Tenure and Promotion Procedures of Nipissing University, I am forwarding this report to the next meeting of Senate and the next meeting of our Board of Governors for information.

Article 26.32 (a) of the Collective Agreement states that, "Every year by May 20, the Provost of the University will prepare a Report on Tenure and Promotion which will be appended to the September Senate agenda and submitted to the Board around the same time". Article 26.32 (b) defines the dimensions of the report as follows:

TENURE				
Applications	Granted	Denied	Deferred	Withdrawn
2	1	0	1	0
Applicants Awarded Tenure (Tenure & Promotion Process): Dr. Marc Pilon, Faculty of Education and Professional Studies				

PROMOTION TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR				
Applications	Granted	Denied	Withdrawn	URAC
1	0	1	0	0
Applicants Awarded Promotion to Associate Professor:				

PROMOTION TO PROFESSOR				
Applications	Granted	Denied	Withdrawn	In Progress
7	5	1	0	1
Applicants Awarded Promotion to Professor: Dr. Natalya Brown, Faculty of Arts and Sciences and Faculty of Education and Professional Studies Dr. Logan Hoehn, Faculty of Arts and Science Dr. Kirsten Greer, Faculty of Arts and Science Dr. Alison Schinkel-Ivy, Faculty of Education and Professional Studies Dr. Karey McCullough, Faculty of Education and Professional Studies <i>One application remains in progress at the time of reporting</i>				

No. of Applications heard by the University Review Appeals Committee	0
No. of Grievances heard by the University Review Appeals Board	0

No. of Job Candidates awarded Tenure upon appointment	0
No. of Job Candidates awarded Promotion to Associate Professor or Professor upon appointment	0

The University extends congratulations to the individuals who were awarded tenure and/or promotion during the 2025 – 2026 cycle, including those awarded through the regular Tenure and Promotion process or through the Tenure and Promotion for Academic Administrators process. These achievements represent important milestones in everyone's academic career and recognize their contributions to teaching, research/scholarly activity, service, and academic leadership.



Board of Governors Report to Senate – May 2026

Board of Governors Meeting April 28, 2026

The Board of Governors met on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, in the President's Boardroom and via Zoom remote conferencing.

The Board of Governors is responsible for appointing Nipissing University Research Ethics Board (NUREB) members through a fair and impartial process and accepted the recommendation of the Provost to appoint Triana Ortiz to an initial three-year term effective July 1, 2026.

John D'Agostino was appointed as Board Chair to a one-year term beginning July 1, 2026.

Janet Stockton was appointed as Board Vice-Chair to a one-year term beginning July 1, 2026.

Ravil Veli was appointed as Board Vice-Chair Pro Tem to a one-year term beginning July 1, 2026.

The Vice-President, Finance and Administration summarized tuition increases, including a 7.5% increase for student enrolled in Business programs and a 2% increase for all other undergraduate, graduate, and education programs for Ontario residents and international students, and a 5% increase for out-of-province students enrolled in those programs. The resolutions were passed.

The Ancillary fee changes were reviewed and approved by the Compulsory Ancillary Fees Committee and resulted in an estimated average impact of approximately \$85.00 per year per student based on a typical course load. Both the Nipissing University Ancillary Fees and the Nipissing University Student Union Ancillary Fees were approved as presented.

The VPFA also presented the budget in detail, which projects a consolidated surplus. The Board was pleased to unanimously **pass the 2026/27 Budget as presented.**

The Provost and Vice-President, Academic presented the Cost of Educational Materials directive, which is required of institutions to report on the availability and transparency of textbook and course material costs for students.



Board of Governors Report to Senate – May 2026

The Board of Governors received the Proposal for the Bachelor of Community Planning Program, designed to prepare graduates for professional planning practice across Canada, with areas of specialization in Northern planning, rural planning, and Indigenous community planning. The program has received all required approvals, including from the Quality Council, the Province, and University Senate, with a public announcement forthcoming. Admissions are anticipated to begin in Fall 2027, supported by dedicated start-up funding sufficient to support initial staffing, program development, and marketing, without drawing on existing departmental budgets.

The program is planned to launch with an initial cohort of 60 students per year, scaling to approximately 240 students, subject to demand. It was noted that the program is expected to generate tuition revenue, with confidence expressed regarding its competitiveness. The program was described as addressing a significant labour-market need, particularly in Northern Ontario, and aligning with federal, provincial, municipal, and Indigenous priorities.

Members discussed workforce demand and the program's unique positioning as the only planning program in Canada focused specifically on Northern, rural, and Indigenous community contexts. The importance of ongoing engagement with Indigenous communities and the Nipissing University Indigenous Council on Education (NUICE) was affirmed as part of program development and implementation.

Following discussion, the Board unanimously passed the following resolution:

That the Board of Governors accept the recommendation of the Audit & Finance Committee to approve the creation of the Bachelor of Community Program with admissions to begin in 2027/28.

Members identified a need to improve Board–Senate communication on budget matters, including clearer reporting, earlier Senate engagement, and clarification of the Senate Budget Advisory Committee's role, with administration indicating alignment with ongoing governance review efforts.

**Report to Academic Senate
Council of Ontario Universities (COU)—Academic Colleagues Meeting
April 14–16, 2026**

Overview

I attended the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) Academic Colleagues meetings held April 14–16, 2026. The meetings brought together representatives from across Ontario universities to discuss sector-wide priorities, with a primary focus on the evolving role of higher education in the context of artificial intelligence (AI).

Discussions were conducted under Chatham House principles; therefore, this report summarizes key themes and insights without attributing comments to specific individuals or institutions.

1. Key Theme: Academic Delivery in an AI Context

A central component of the meetings was a sector-wide discussion on how AI is reshaping teaching, assessment, and research. Institutions across Ontario are at varying stages of response, but several common trends emerged:

a. Teaching and Learning

- Universities are actively exploring how to integrate AI into curriculum design while maintaining academic rigor.
- There is a shift toward emphasizing higher-order skills such as critical thinking, interpretation, and synthesis, rather than rote knowledge production.
- Overall, there is ongoing efforts to provide training, resources, and policy guidance.

b. Assessment Practices

- Traditional assessment models are being reconsidered due to the accessibility of generative AI tools.
- Emerging approaches include:
 - Increased use of in-person and experiential assessments
 - Scaffolded assignments that emphasize process over product
 - Oral and applied demonstrations of learning
- Institutions are balancing academic integrity concerns with the recognition that AI will remain embedded in future professional environments.

c. Student Learning and Support

- Concerns were raised about student over-reliance on AI tools and the potential impact on skill development.
- At the same time, there is recognition that equitable access to AI tools is a growing issue.
- Universities are working to define appropriate use while supporting student success in an AI-integrated environment.

2. Small Group Discussions: Strategic Framing

Participants engaged in structured discussions across five thematic areas, which will inform ongoing COU work and broader sector conversations:

Group 1—Purpose & Survival

- Explored the fundamental role of universities in a context where AI can perform many knowledge-based tasks.
- Emphasis was placed on universities as spaces for critical inquiry, social development, and ethical reasoning, rather than solely knowledge transmission.

Group 2—Students, Pedagogy & Academic Freedom

- Key tension identified between encouraging exploration of AI tools and preventing dependency.
- Strong support for maintaining academic freedom while developing institutional guidelines.
- Discussion included the need to redefine the concept of an “educated graduate,” with greater emphasis on adaptability, judgment, and interdisciplinary thinking.

Group 3—Future Institutional Model

- Considered scenarios involving enrolment and constrained funding.
- Highlighted the need for more flexible delivery models, potential restructuring, and increased collaboration across institutions.

Group 4—Research in the University

- AI is transforming research methodologies and outputs across disciplines.
- Concerns were raised about research integrity, reproducibility, and reliance on proprietary AI systems.
- Opportunities include accelerated discovery and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Group 5—Human Core, Ethics & Society

- Strong consensus that certain elements of education must remain “irreducibly human,” including ethical reasoning, creativity, and relational learning.
- Emphasized the importance of arts, humanities, and social sciences in contextualizing technological change.
- Noted risks of external influence, particularly from private AI companies, on knowledge production and academic priorities.
- Discussions also highlighted the importance of Indigenous knowledge systems and equity-deserving groups in shaping inclusive and ethical AI integration.

3. Sector-Wide Considerations

Across discussions, several cross-cutting issues emerged:

- **Policy Development:** Institutions are rapidly developing policies on AI use in teaching, assessment, and research, though approaches vary widely.
- **Equity and Access:** Unequal access to AI tools may exacerbate existing inequities among students and institutions.
- **Academic Integrity:** There is a shift from prevention-based approaches toward adaptation and integration.
- **Long-Term Planning:** Participants were encouraged to consider longer-term scenarios to guide strategic planning.

4. COU Updates and Governance

The meeting also included updates from COU leadership regarding:

- Ongoing sector advocacy efforts
- Preparation for the COU Members' Meeting
- Upcoming appointments to boards and committees

Further discussion on AI in academic delivery is scheduled to continue at future meetings, including upcoming virtual sessions in May.

5. Implications for Our Institution

While approaches differ across the sector, the discussions suggest several areas for continued attention:

- Ongoing review and adaptation of assessment practices
- Expanded support for faculty navigating AI integration
- Development of clear, principled institutional guidelines on AI use
- Consideration of long-term academic and structural planning in response to technological change
- Reinforcement of the role of human-centered education, including ethics and critical inquiry

Conclusion

The COU meetings underscored that AI is not a temporary disruption but a structural shift in higher education. Institutions are moving from reactive responses toward more strategic, values-driven approaches. Continued engagement at both the institutional and sector level will be essential as policies, practices, and academic models evolve.



Nipissing University Alumni Advisory Board report to Academic Senate June 2026

Welcome, Class of 2026!

NUAAB warmly welcomes all graduating students to the Nipissing University alumni community. We hope your celebrations during convocation week are wonderful, and we look forward to engaging with you in the years ahead as members of the Laker alumni family.

NUAAB Representative to Senate

NUAAB is pleased to share that Riley McEntee (BA Hons '24) is the new alumni representative to Academic Senate and will formally begin his term in September. We also extend sincere thanks to Ryan Hehn (BA '12) for his three years of service in this role and for his thoughtful engagement at Senate.

NUAAB Executive

NUAAB is pleased to share that Laurel Muldoon (BA Hons '15, MEd '19) was recently elected to a second two-year term as President. We thank her for her ongoing engagement and leadership. We also welcome Joe Burt (BEd '14) as Vice President of NUAAB and thank him for his continued dedication as a champion for Nipissing University. NUAAB extends sincere appreciation to Melissa MacNabb (BA '99) for her many years of service as Vice President and for her engagement in all of the NUAAB's endeavours.

North Bay and District Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament

Nipissing Alumni is proud to serve as the title sponsor for the North Bay and District Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament on July 9th. The event provides a valuable opportunity for NUAAB and the alumni team to engage with local businesses, share what is happening at the University, and connect with Nipissing alumni in the community.

An Evening at Nipissing University

NUAAB is proud to be a silver sponsor of An Evening at Nipissing University. The members are looking forward to engaging in an event focused on supporting Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries for Nipissing students and celebrating the importance of student success.

Save the Date – Homecoming 2026

NUAAB is looking forward to welcoming alumni and the broader campus community back to campus for Homecoming 2026 on September 18 and 19. This annual celebration is an opportunity to reconnect with the Laker community, celebrate shared pride in Nipissing University, and take part in a weekend of engaging events and activities. Please save the date!

Report to Academic Senate 13 May 2026 COU Meeting

Council of Ontario Universities (COU) Academic Colleagues Meeting

Date: May 13, 2026

Format: Zoom Videoconference

Submitted by: Carlo Ricci Academic Colleague Representative

Discussions at this meeting were conducted under Chatham House principles; therefore, this report summarizes key themes and insights without attributing comments to specific individuals or institutions.

Meeting Overview

The Council of Ontario Universities Academic Colleagues met virtually on May 13, 2026. Agenda items included governance matters, ongoing discussions concerning artificial intelligence in higher education, provincial policy developments, and information sharing among member institutions.

Key Discussion Themes

Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education

A significant portion of the meeting focused on the continued role of artificial intelligence (AI) within Ontario's postsecondary sector. The discussion built upon conversations initiated during the April 2026 meetings.

Participants considered the possibility of developing a sector-wide position paper or internal guidance document through COU processes. Discussion emphasized the importance of clarifying:

- what AI technologies are and are not;
- how AI systems function in academic and administrative contexts; and
- the implications of AI for teaching, learning, assessment, governance, and institutional policy.

There was broad recognition that universities continue to face challenges related to academic integrity, ethical use, student learning outcomes, and institutional preparedness in relation to rapidly evolving AI tools.

Reference was also made to an AI task force report (29 May 2026), which may further inform sector discussions and policy considerations.

Provincial Policy and Legislative Developments

Members briefly discussed Ontario's *Putting Students First Act (Bill 101)* and its potential implications for the postsecondary sector. Conversation focused primarily on monitoring emerging policy directions and considering possible impacts on institutional operations, accountability, and governance structures.

COU Updates and Information Sharing

The meeting included updates from COU leadership regarding ongoing sector initiatives and areas of advocacy. Participants also engaged in information sharing related to institutional experiences, emerging priorities, and areas of common concern across Ontario universities.

Future Meetings

Upcoming Academic Colleagues meetings are scheduled for:

- August 25, 2026
- August 26, 2026

NUSU Academic Senate Report: June 2026

Planning for the 2026–2027 Academic Year

NUSU has been actively preparing for the upcoming 2026–2027 academic year through the development of events, campaigns, and new student-focused initiatives. Planning efforts are currently underway across several areas to ensure an engaging and supportive experience for students throughout the upcoming year.

Campus & Community Collaborations

NUSU remains committed to collaboration and partnership opportunities across campus and within the broader community. We continue to welcome opportunities to work alongside departments, faculty, staff, and community organizations on initiatives that enhance the student experience.

Pride BBQ & Drag Show

NUSU will be hosting a Pride BBQ and Drag Show on June 30 running from 4:00–7:30. We invite all to attend and celebrate Pride Month with us. Donations collected during the event will be directed toward morebinders, AIDS Committee, and OutLoud. We look forward to seeing members of the community come together for this celebration.

Sustainability & Green Initiatives

NUSU is continuing to expand its sustainability and environmental initiatives on campus. One upcoming initiative, called “OAK,” will focus on preserving and jarring produce for use within a food pantry program. As part of this initiative, NUSU is currently organizing a mason jar drive and encourages community members to donate jars to the NUSU front desk.

In addition, NUSU is excited to be reintroducing bees to campus in the coming weeks. Discussions are also underway regarding the expansion of our gardens and development of accessible pathways leading to the garden and bee areas to ensure these spaces remain welcoming and inclusive for all students.

Looking Ahead

Overall, NUSU has many initiatives currently in progress as preparations continue for the upcoming academic year. We look forward to continuing to support students through programming, advocacy, sustainability efforts, and campus engagement opportunities.

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY
REPORT OF THE SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

June 4, 2026

A meeting of the Senate Executive Committee took place in person and by Teams conference on June 4, 2026.

The following members participated:

K. Wamsley (Chair), B. Law, N. Colborne, G. Raymer, G. Phillips, D. Iafrate, J. Allison, K. Lucas, J. Martin, A. Blaszczyk (University Secretary, non-voting), S. Landriault (Senate Secretary, non-voting)

Regrets: C. Richardson, K. Srigley

The meeting was convened to set the agenda for the June 12, 2026, Senate meeting.

It was confirmed that the Provost and Vice-President, Academic will provide a presentation of the Academic Plan and Operational Plan (APOP) Annual Report. Reports were also received from the Alumni Advisory Board, the Council of Ontario Universities (Academic Colleague), and the Nipissing University Student Union.

The following Standing Committee Reports were received and included in the Senate Agenda: Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee (AQAPC), Graduate Studies Committee, Senate Budget Advisory Committee, and the Teaching and Learning Committee.

The following Standing Committee Annual Reports were received and included in the Senate Agenda: Academic Appeals and Petitions Committee, Academic Awards Committee, Academic Curriculum Committee, Graduate Studies Committee, Honorary Degrees Committee, Senate Research Committee, and the Teaching and Learning Committee.

The Committee discussed the Notice of Motion from the May 22, 2026, Senate Agenda regarding proposed amendments to the Senate By-laws (Article 9.4.1) to include the Director of Indigenous Initiatives and the Director of Teaching and Learning as ex officio voting members of the AQAPC. Following discussion, members agreed to remove the item from the Agenda and refer it back to the AQAPC for further clarification. Specifically, to determine whether the proposal would require converting two existing ex officio voting positions to non-voting status or require the election of four additional faculty members.

It was also determined that the Notice of Motion from the May 22, 2026, Senate Agenda proposing to amend the Senate By-laws (Article 9.12) to designate the Director of Teaching and Learning as an ex officio voting member and Chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee be removed from the Agenda and referred back to the Teaching and Learning Committee for further clarification. Specifically, to determine whether the proposed amendment would require the election of two additional faculty members.

An election for three (3) faculty Senate representatives to serve on the Senate Budget Advisory Committee for three (3) year terms will be included in the agenda.

The Report on Graduation Applicants will be presented under New Business.

The Senate Executive Committee approved the June 12, 2026, Senate Agenda.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Kevin Wamsley
Chair, Senate Executive Committee

Motion 1: That Senate receive the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated June 4, 2026.



**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
ACADEMIC APPEALS AND PETITIONS COMMITTEE**

May 26, 2026

The Senate Committee on Academic Appeals and Petitions (AAPC) members include:

<u>Membership</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Debra Iafrate (Chair)	3
Robin Gendron	2
Stephen Kariuki	2
Andrew Ackerman	1
Alison Schinkel-Ivy)	2
Jeff Thornborrow	3
Julie Corkett	2
Jaden Martin	0
Dakota Lamirande	1

During the reporting period of July 1 to May 26, a total of 384 academic petitions were reviewed. In addition, two appeals were heard by the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Debra', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Debra Iafrate, Chair
Academic Appeals and Petitions Committee

Motion 1: That the Annual Report of the Academic Appeals and Petitions Committee dated May 26, 2026, be received by Senate.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
ACADEMIC AWARDS COMMITTEE**

May 26, 2026

The membership of the Senate Committee on Academic Awards (AAC) is as follows:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Debra Iafrate (Chair)
Sarah Taylor
Leslie Aitchison
Steven Smits
Margaret Owens
Mukund Jha
Adam Adler
Natalya Brown
Dakota Lamirande

The Awards Committee does not convene through formal meetings. Adjudication is conducted virtually, with materials circulated electronically and members providing independent rankings within established timelines.

As such, formal meeting attendance is not recorded. Participation is reflected through member responses to award ranking submissions, with quorum effectively achieved through the receipt of sufficient responses to support adjudication.

The Senate Committee on Academic Awards selected recipients for the following awards from July 1, 2025 to May 26, 2026:

Board of Governor's Award
Chancellor's Award
Chancellor's Medal for Humanity
Dave Marshall Leadership Awards
Ivan A. and Joy Clysdale Memorial Achievement Award
Ontario Remembrance Scholarship
Ontario-Ukraine Solidarity Scholarships
Positive Impact Award
Robbie Urquhart Mental Health Resiliency Award
Talon Research Assistantships
Tembec Citizenship Award

Respectfully submitted,



Debra Iafrate, Chair
Academic Awards Committee

Motion 1: That the Annual Report of the Academic Awards Committee dated May 26, 2026, be received by Senate.

Annual Report of the Academic Curriculum Committee

May 26, 2026

The Academic Curriculum Committee (ACC) met six times between July 1, 2025, and May 26, 2026. The ACC membership and attendance at the meetings were as follows:

<u>Membership</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Carole Richardson (Chair)	5
Nathan Colbourne	6
Graydon Raymer	5
Barbi Law	5
Dan Walters (designate)	1
Nancy Black	5
Debra Iafrate	5
Kurt Clausen	5
Trevor Holmes	3
Robin Gibson	5
Ali Hatef	5
Aaron Kociolek	4
Toivo Koivukoski	3
Gillian McCann	2
Ping Zou	5
Hilda Konadu	1
Dakota Lamirande	1
Logan Lloyd	1
Jaden Martin	3
Will McKenzie	0

The Academic Curriculum Committee approved a total of 82 motions.

The following new degree, certificate, diploma and program requirements, including amendments and revisions were approved:

Faculty of Arts and Science:

- Bachelor of Fine Arts (Major Modification)
- Child and Family Studies (Major Modification)
- Computer Science – BA & BSc (Major Modification)
- Computer Science Minor (revised)
- English (revised Group 1)
- Environmental Geography (Major Modification)
- Environmental and Physical Geography (Major Modification)
- Environmental Science (Major Modification)
- Geography (Major Modification)
- Indigenous Studies (revised)
- Psychology – BA & BSc (Major Modification)
- Sociology (Major Modification)
- Post Baccalaureate Diploma in AI and Machine Learning (revised)

- Certificate in Environmental Management (revised)
- Game Design and Development Certificate (discontinued)
- WAG Certificate (revised)
- WAG Minor (removed)

Faculty of Education and Professional Studies:

- School of Nursing – Blended Learning NSGD program (revised)

New courses, course revisions, banking or deletions were approved in the following degrees/disciplines:

Faculty of Arts and Science:

- Biology
- Computer Science
- Child and Family Studies
- Environmental Science
- Fine Arts and Visual Arts
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Social Welfare

Faculty of Education and Professional Studies:

- School of Nursing
- School of Physical and Health Education

Transfer Credit:

- MEd elective

Policy:

- Academic Standing and Progression (1.4, 3.0, 6.4, 9.0) (revised)
- Bachelor of Education Program Attendance Policy (deletion)
- Bachelor of Science (Psychology) Admissions Policy (revised)
- Faculty of Education and Professional Studies Attendance Policy (new) Good Academic Standing 2.0 Policy for the Indigenous Classroom Assistant Diploma Program (ICADP) (new)
- Placement Professionalism Policy (new)
- Placement Screening Policy (new)

Pathways:

- Business College Transfer Pathways to the Bachelor of Commerce (4 year) and Bachelor of Business Administration (revised)

Respectfully submitted,



Carole Richardson, PhD
Provost and Vice-President, Academic

Motion 1: That Senate receive the Annual Report of the Academic Curriculum Committee,
dated May 26, 2026.

Report of the
ACADEMIC QUALITY ASSURANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
Academic Year 2025-2026

May 29, 2026

The seventh meeting of the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee of 2025-2026 was held on Friday, May 29, 2026, in person and via Teams conference.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Carole Richardson (Chair)	Debra Iafrate	Steve Hansen
Dan Walters	Nancy Black	Jaden Martin
Nathan Colborne	Rob Breton	

Regrets: Barbi Law, Graydon Raymer, Stephen Tedesco, Roxana Vernescu, Veronika Williams, Greg Rickwood, Dakota Lamirande

Resource Support (non-voting): Patty Chabbert, Robin Gibson, Trevor Holmes

Recording Secretary (non-voting): S. Landriault

The Chair opened with a Land Acknowledgement recognizing Nipissing First Nation Traditional Territory and the Anishinabek Nation.

Business Arising from the Minutes

Review of the Draft AQAPC Terms of Reference and Membership

The Provost advised that the draft Terms of Reference and membership for AQAPC are preliminary and were circulated to invite feedback as part of the ongoing governance review. The document is not final; rather, it is intended to support committee deliberations. Any suggested revisions will be forwarded to the Governance Committee for further review. The University Secretary is seeking both individual feedback from members and collective input from the committee, particularly regarding membership composition and the Terms of Reference. Members were encouraged to consider both the current structure and potential improvements, including revisiting points previously raised via email.

Discussion included overlap in responsibilities, specifically regarding item 2.3: *“To review academic programs, regulations, policies, and standards and to make recommendations to Senate as necessary and appropriate.”* It was noted that the Academic Curriculum Committee (ACC) also has responsibility for policy review. Some members recalled that policy oversight had previously been consolidated under ACC to reduce duplication and suggested that housing policy review within a single committee would simplify governance processes.

The Provost chairs both AQAPC and ACC, so regardless of whether responsibilities reside with AQAPC or ACC, academic policies will continue to be reviewed by a duly constituted Senate committee. The committee also discussed the distinction between academic regulations and academic policies. It was observed that regulations typically refer to standard operating procedures derived from legislative or external reporting requirements (e.g., Tri-Council funding obligations or mandated institutional reports such as anti-racism reporting). Policies establish the governing framework, while procedures or regulations outline the steps required to meet those obligations. In this context, regulations are often shaped by legal or compliance requirements, whereas policies define institutional intent and direction. The Provost indicated that, for the time being, it is acceptable to retain responsibility for regulations within AQAPC. As the governance review progresses, responsibilities may be consolidated under a single committee, and distinctions regarding academic regulations will be clarified. This matter will also be reviewed by the third party engaged to conduct a comprehensive review of institutional policies.

The NUSU VP, Communications and Awareness, on behalf of herself and the NUSU student representatives, expressed strong support for student representation on AQAPC. She emphasized the importance of incorporating broader student input, noting that relying on a single student representative is

insufficient. Meaningful student participation in committee discussions is essential, particularly in processes that inform decision-making. Concerns were raised that, in the absence of a designated representative, there may be instances where no student voice is present at meetings. She further highlighted the need for enhanced orientation and training for student representatives to better understand committee structures, processes, and systems, enabling them to contribute effectively. As elected representatives, students have a responsibility to participate, and structures should support their involvement rather than exclude them due to scheduling challenges.

The Provost noted that attendance data from Senate Standing Committee annual reports will be reviewed to help inform future discussions on this matter. She emphasized that decisions regarding committee composition will not be made by AQAPC.

It was suggested that introducing a student designate or alternate could help ensure consistent student participation, with NUSU determining representation as needed. Additional suggestions included representation from both undergraduate and graduate students. Challenges related to quorum, turnover, and inconsistent attendance were acknowledged. Further discussion was recommended with the Associate Vice-President, Research, Innovation and Graduate Studies (AVPRIGS), particularly regarding alignment with the Graduate Studies Committee.

The Provost advised that the Director of the Office of Indigenous Initiatives (OII) and the Director of Teaching and Learning have been added as voting members of both AQAPC and Senate. A notice of motion reflecting these changes was included in the Senate agenda on May 22, 2026, and will be brought forward for a vote at the June 12, 2026, Senate meeting.

It was noted that many elements of the current Terms of Reference are dated, and the ongoing governance review presents an opportunity to modernize and reset these documents. All feedback gathered will be submitted to the University Secretary for further consideration. Subsequent recommendations will inform institution-wide decisions, which will be reviewed by the Senate By-laws and Elections Committee.

Request for Volunteers to Review IQAP Self-Studies from Programs Undergoing Cyclical Program Reviews for this year

A request was issued for volunteers to review IQAP self-studies associated with this year's cyclical program reviews. The Manager of Quality Assurance and Program Innovation (QAPI) highlighted the importance of providing early notice and emphasized AQAPC's critical oversight role, as noted in the Audit Report to the Quality Council. This review stage, focused on checklist completion and quality assurance, serves as a final step before self-studies are forwarded to external reviewers. While documents are reviewed by Deans and the Provost, AQAPC's review has proven to be a valuable quality control measure, particularly in supporting programs that may require additional guidance. Members were encouraged to indicate interest in reviewing specific programs. The following assignments were confirmed:

- **Nancy Black:** Geography; and BA and MA in Sociology
- **Debra lafrate:** Physical and Health Education
- **Steve Hansen:** MES/MESc; and MSc Mathematics

The Provost noted that the next AQAPC meeting will take place in August. Discussion also addressed the self-study checklist. The Manager of QAPI indicated that it had been reviewed within the past two years under the former Provost. The Director of the Office of Indigenous Initiatives (OII) recommended strengthening the checklist to better reflect institutional commitments to Indigenization, decolonization, and reconciliation, noting that current references are limited to a single question. She advocated for a more robust integration of these priorities.

The Manager of QAPI acknowledged that the checklist was initially broad due to the early stage of these efforts but agreed that enhancements are warranted. The Director of OII requested a timeline for this review. The Provost noted that the checklist forms part of a broader self-study framework and should be considered in that context, while confirming that AQAPC will play a role in advancing this work. The item will be included on a future AQAPC agenda.

Given the volume of programs currently undergoing review, the Manager of QAPI advised that any revisions would need to follow an accelerated timeline and would apply to the next cycle of self-studies. The Provost confirmed that calls for self-study reviewers will continue to be issued.

New Business/Question Period

The Director of the Office of Indigenous Initiatives (OII) raised concerns regarding the absence of Indigenous perspectives in committee discussions when she is not present. She cited, as an example, a motion she had requested to be put forward concerning the Indigenous Studies program that proceeded without Indigenous voice or representation.

She emphasized the need for the committee to establish a shared approach to ensuring Indigenous perspectives are consistently integrated into its work. This may involve formalizing expectations within the Terms of Reference or identifying members who can assume responsibility for reviewing matters through the lenses of Indigenization, reconciliation, and decolonization in her absence.

The Director underscored that responsibility for advancing these priorities must be collectively shared by the committee, and that mechanisms should be developed to ensure Indigenous perspectives inform discussions and decisions even when she is not present.

A suggestion was made to appoint a designate who could attend meetings on behalf of the Director of OII when necessary. The Manager of OII further encouraged all members, within their respective roles, to take shared responsibility for ensuring Indigenous perspectives are considered. This includes recognizing when such perspectives are absent and documenting in meeting minutes that these gaps were identified, alongside actions to address them, such as revisiting decisions or undertaking further consultation.

Members discussed the importance of formalizing this approach, including whether explicit language should be incorporated into the Terms of Reference or Senate By-laws. It was noted that other committees have adopted practices such as a “bias checker” role to ensure diverse perspectives are considered and to identify gaps in representation. Similarly, AQAPC could explicitly acknowledge in its minutes when key perspectives are missing and, where appropriate, defer or provisionally approve items pending further consultation.

The Director of OII indicated that the Terms of Reference would be shared with NUICE to seek guidance, particularly regarding quality assurance, curriculum design, policy, and appropriate consultation frameworks in Indigenous education.

The Provost noted that the forthcoming Indigenous Academic Advisory Council will also play a role in academic matters, including curriculum considerations where relevant to its advisory function. She thanked members for their thoughtful contributions, indicating that the discussion will help inform revisions to the Terms of Reference.

The Provost further advised that upcoming changes to the Bachelor of Education (BEd) program may require AQAPC to convene meetings over the summer. She also noted that calls for self-study reviewers will continue to be circulated.

Respectfully submitted,



Carole Richardson, PhD
Chair, Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee

Motion 1: That Senate receive the Report of the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee dated May 29, 2026.

**Nipissing University
Graduate Studies Committee Report
April 24, 2026**

The Graduate Studies Committee met on April 24, 2026.

Members in attendance: B. Law (Chair), N. Black, K. Clausen, N. Colborne, K. Greer, S. Hansen, B. Kelly, G. Raymer, J. Murton. Regrets: D. Iafrate, T. Vassilev. Absent: W. MacKenzie
Guests: A. McCarthy, D. Walters. Recording Secretary: L. Snoddon

Reports from the Office of Research, Innovation & Graduate Studies were distributed prior to the April 24th meeting, as well as an oral report given by the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies.

Updates included:

- Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) update regarding award allocations for 2026-2027
- Reminder of an upcoming webinar from the National Community of Practice for Graduate Supervision: [Supervision and Student Mental Health & Well-being on May 27](#)
- Planning updates for New Graduate Student Orientation in September and collaboration with Summer Orientation to offer pre-arrival information sessions in July
- Oral reports given from Recruitment and Marketing regarding admission applications and Faculty research profile web pages, respectively.

New Business Included:

- Review of the GSC Terms of Reference

Discussions Included:

- Transfer credit timeline regulations for readmissions

Respectfully submitted,



B. Law
Chair, Graduate Studies Committee

MOTION 1: That Senate receives the report of the Graduate Studies Committee, dated April 24, 2026.

Nipissing University

Annual Report of the Graduate Studies Committee

May 29, 2026

During the academic year 2025-2026, there were 8 meetings of the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC). The meetings were held on September 24th, October 30th, November 28th, December 18th, January 23rd, March 31st, April 24th, and May 22nd. On April 14th and February 10th, informal meetings were held to discuss admission processes and the Graduate Faculty Membership Policy.

Attendance for the Graduate Studies Committee was as follows:

Membership	Attendance
Barbi Law, Chair	8
Kurt Clausen, Vice Chair	7
James Murton	8
Steve Hansen	8
Benjamin Kelly	5
Tzvetalin Vassilev	6
Kirsten Greer	7
Debra Iafrate	6
Graydon Raymer	5
Nancy Black	8
Nathan Colborne	7
William MacKenzie (Graduate Student Representative)	0
Amber McCarthy (Guest – Graduate Studies Coordinator)	7
Dan Walters (Guest – Graduate Studies Associate) Dean)	8
Heather Brown (Guest)	2
Laura Snoddon (Guest – Recording Secretary)	7
Greg Hornby (Guest)	6
Meghan Venasse (Guest)	2
Trevor Holmes (Guest)	1

The following topics were discussed during this year:

- Admission Processes and Timelines
- Admission Targets
- Annual Graduate Program Review Template
- Annual Workplan 2025-2026
- External Examiner Policy
- Graduate Program Internal Policies and Procedures
- Graduate Student and Supervisor Agreement

- Graduate Student Orientation
- Graduate Student Representation (NUSU)
- Graduate Student Residence Experience
- Graduate Student Travel Funding
- Graduate Studies Funding Model
- Graduate Studies Faculty Membership Policy
- Graduating with Distinction
- MA Sociology New Course
- Master of Education: BEd course, EDUC 4756 as Advanced Standing
- Master of Education: Spring-Summer Admission Intake
- Non-Traditional Thesis and Dissertation Guidelines
- NUSU Elections Process
- Project Integrate
- Review of Graduate Student Awards management plans
- Senate Governance Review: GSC Terms of Reference
- Spring Retreat Debrief
- Supervisory Committee Policy
- Teaching Assistant-Instructor Expectations Agreement
- Teaching Assistant Training
- Terms of Reference for Awards & Funding Committee
- Transfer Credit Policy Working Group
- Visiting Graduate Student Policy

The following motions were approved during this year:

- Approval of the GSC Annual Report to Senate for 2025-2026
- Election of Kurt Clausen as Vice-Chair for a 1-year term.
- That GSC approve the reinstatement of the Spring-Summer Admission intake for the Master of Education (Flex-Time) program.
- That Senate Executive receive the 2025-2026 Work Plan for the Graduate Studies Committee, and for it to be shared with Senate for information.
- That the Graduate Studies Committee adopt the 2026-2027 Graduate Studies Funding Model as presented.
- That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend the 2nd-Year Nipissing University Bachelor of Education, course EDUC 4756 (Curriculum Design and Inquiry) be given transfer credit to the Nipissing University Master of Education as advanced standing, equivalent to an elective course.
- That the Graduate Studies Committee recommends to Faculty Executive (Arts & Science) that the course, SOCI 5306 Sociology of Organizations be added to the academic calendar.
- That the Graduate Studies Committee recommends to the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee (AQAPC) that the Visiting Graduate Student Policy be accepted.

- That the Graduate Studies Committee recommends to the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee (AQAPC) that the External Examiner Policy be accepted.
- That the GSC receive the Project Integrate - Graduate report to be shared with Senate for information

Summary of Outcomes:

- GTA Training Modules
- The Graduate Awards Review Committee was populated for 2025-2026.
- Updated Graduate Studies funding model, admission dates, and OGS allocation for 2025-2026.

Pending Items:

- 2026-2027 Annual Workplan
- Annual Program Review Template revisions
- APOP Goals
- Graduate Faculty Membership Policy
- Graduate Student and Supervisor Agreement
- Graduate Student Orientation
- Graduate Student Representation
- Graduate Studies Awards Funding Model: NUGS GPA
- GSC Summer Retreat Agenda
- Non-Traditional Thesis and Dissertation Guidelines
- Previous Credits/Transfer Credit Regulations
- Supervisory Committee Policy
- TA-Instructor Expectations Agreement

The Chair acknowledges and thanks the Graduate Studies Committee for their diligence and commitment. The Chair also acknowledges the contributions of faculty to the graduate awards review committee.

Respectfully Submitted,



Barbi Law, PhD

Associate Vice-President, Research, Innovation, & Graduate Studies

Motion: That Senate receive the 2025-2026 Annual Report of the Graduate Studies Committee, dated May 29, 2026.

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HONORARY DEGREES COMMITTEE

May 15, 2026

Members

K. Wamsley	1
C. Richardson	1
N. Colborne	1
D. Smits	1
R. Davis	1
N. Botham	1
J. Bramburger	1

Absent with Regrets

M. Bruner

Resource Guests

Abby Blaszczyk
C. Benoit

As per past practice, an e-mail was sent out to the University community in September to solicit names of potential candidates to add to the master list.

At the meeting in December 2025, additional names were received from the solicitation. The committee agreed to forward nine (9) individuals to Senate for approval at an in-camera meeting. The list of names was approved at the December 12, 2025, meeting of the Senate.

The Committee reviewed the Professor Emeritus/Emerita Policy and concluded that, due to its current composition, the Honorary Degrees Committee is not the appropriate body to evaluate these submissions. A revised policy will be prepared, identifying the suitable committee and membership moving forward.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Wamsley, Chair
Honorary Degrees Committee

Motion: That the Senate receive the 2025-2026 Annual Report of the Honorary Degrees Committee dated May 15, 2026.

**Report of the
SENATE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Academic Year 2025-2026**

May 12, 2026

The third meeting of the Senate Budget Advisory Committee of 2025-2026 was held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. in person and via Teams conference. The following members attended:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Dr. Nathan Colborne	Dr. Chris Greco (Acting Chair)	Logan Lloyd
Dr. Graydon Raymer	Dr. Hilary Earl	

Resource Support (non-voting): A. Blaszczyk, University Secretary

Recording Secretary (non-voting): S. Landriault

It was noted that the Chair, Dr. Robin Gendron and Dr. Dan Jarvis, resigned from the Senate Budget Advisory Committee.

Business Arising from the Minutes

Development of an Annual Timeline Outlining the SBAC's Work

The Committee discussed the need to clarify the role of the Senate Budget Advisory Committee (SBAC) and to establish a structured annual work timeline. This initiative is intended to strengthen understanding of the university's budget process and enhance the SBAC's capacity to fulfill its advisory mandate to Senate, particularly in relation to academic resource allocation.

It was noted that the Deans submit their budget proposals in January, followed by presentations to the Internal Budget Committee in early February. This Committee includes the President, Provost, Vice-President Finance and Administration (VPFA), Assistant Vice-President Human Resources and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, the Director of Finance, and the Director of Institutional Planning and Analysis. These presentations focus primarily on long-term priorities such as faculty complement planning and strategic investments. The internal Budget Committee then reviews these submissions and provides direction to the Deans for the upcoming fiscal year.

The University Secretary advised that the proposed SBAC work plan had been proposed to align with the Board of Governors' Audit and Finance Committee schedule, with the goal of enabling the SBAC to contribute constructively to the budget process. A preliminary timeline had also been received from the VPFA.

It was suggested that when budget holders present on academic priorities, these presentations should also be shared with the SBAC. Subsequently, the SBAC could produce this information and present its analysis and recommendations to Senate. In fulfilling its mandate, the SBAC is responsible for providing advice and recommendations to Senate, including responding to matters brought forward by the Board of Governors. The SBAC emphasized the importance of articulating clear advice on both academic and financial priorities, particularly as they relate to the university's academic mission.

Additionally, it was noted that Senate would benefit from providing guidance on matters such as program closures, ensuring that academic priorities are clearly aligned with institutional resource allocation decisions. The SBAC's role includes assessing how financial resources are allocated in support of the university's academic objectives.

Concerns were raised regarding representation on the SBAC, specifically the absence of members from the Office of Indigenous Initiatives and the Library. It was suggested that the SBAC could play a more active role by receiving regular updates from the VPFA and providing Senate with informed information regarding the university budget.

Members agreed that the SBAC was originally established to ensure that academic perspectives were adequately reflected within institutional financial planning. Improvements in financial reporting systems and the presence of Deans on the SBAC were noted as positive developments. However, there was consensus that broader participation and improved access to financial information would further enhance transparency and institutional understanding.

It was further suggested that the SBAC could receive information from the Audit and Finance Committee in the fall, followed by a presentation from the VPFA, and subsequently prepare a report to Senate. This approach supports SBAC's dual role in oversight and education. SBAC members were also encouraged to actively communicate information back to their respective constituencies and advocate on behalf of faculty members.

In response to questions regarding the Provost's and VPFA's roles on the SBAC, it was noted that the absence of senior administration as formal members may help preserve an environment conducive to open discussion.

Comparative research at other universities indicates that similar committees often benefit from broader and more diverse membership. Expanding the SBAC membership was therefore identified as a potential strategy to enhance inclusivity, representation, and the diversity of perspectives.

SBAC Workplan

The University Secretary will develop the SBAC work plan for the coming year. This will include greater clarity regarding timelines, presentations, and evaluation processes to support more effective engagement in the budget cycle.

SBAC Mandate and Terms of Reference (Senate Governance Review Committee)

The SBAC has been tasked by the Senate Governance Review Committee to review its membership structure and terms of reference. The Committee's role is advisory rather than oppositional, with a focus on promoting transparency, informed decision-making, and effective governance.

The Senate Governance Review Committee will undertake a comprehensive review of the SBAC's terms of reference and membership over the next year.

Motion 1: That Senate receive the Report of the Senate Budget Advisory Committee dated May 12, 2026.

Nipissing University

Annual Report of the Senate Research Committee

May 29, 2026

During the 2025-2026 academic year, there were six meetings of the Senate Research Committee. The meetings were held on September 19th, October 22nd, January 21st, February 24th, March 18th, and April 27th. The next meeting has been scheduled for June 1st. Quorum was not met for the scheduled December meeting, resulting in a cancellation prior to the intended meeting time. The November meeting was cancelled due to a lack of agenda items.

Attendance for the Senate Research Committee was as follows:

Membership	Attendance
Barbi Law, Chair	6
Nancy Black	6
Steven Arnocky	6
Mary Pat Sullivan	4
Haibin Zhu	4
Christine Cho, Vice-Chair	6
William MacKenzie – (Graduate Student Rep, effective October 2025)	0
Nicholas Botham - (NUSU rep)	1
Carly Byers (guest)	4
Kristen Sarginson (guest)	4
Laura Snoddon (guest)	5

The following topics were discussed during this year:

- Annual Workplan for 2025-2026
- APOP Action items
- Awards in Support of Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activities (ARSCA) competition
- Canada Impact+ Chairs & Impact+ Talent Programs
- Canada Research Chairs (CRC) EDI Action Plan
- CRC Search/Hiring
- Internal Research Grant competition
- RDS Implementation Science Seminar
- Research Data Management Strategy
- Research Month
- Research Rendezvous
- Research Space Management
- SRC Terms of Reference
- SSHRC Explore/Exchange/Capacity Competition
- Strategic Research Planning
- Student Research Opportunities Fund (SROF)
 - Nipissing Undergraduate Student Awards (NUSRA) competition
- Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA) competition

The following motions were approved during this year:

- Approval of the recommendations from the Internal Awards Review Committee for the Awards in Support of Research, Scholarly, and/or Creative Activities (*in camera*)
- Approval of the recommendations from the Internal Awards Review Committee for the Internal Research Grant competition (*in camera*)
- Approval of the recommendations from the SIG Review Committee for the SSHRC Explore, Capacity and Exchange competition (*in camera*)
- Approval of the recommendations from the Training Awards Committee for the Undergraduate Student Research Awards competition (*in camera*)
- Approval of the recommendations from the Training Awards Committee for the Nipissing Undergraduate Student Research Awards competition (*in camera*)
- Election of Christine Cho as Vice-Chair.
- That the 2025-2026 Work Plan for the Senate Research Committee be shared with Senate for information.

Summary of Outcomes:

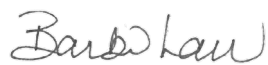
- Governance Review: SRC Terms of Reference
- Launch of Post-Sabbatical Talks
- Research Month 2026 activities: NU360, 19th annual Undergraduate Research Conference, 3MT
- Research Rendezvous Events
- The following award review committees were populated for 2025-2026: the Internal Awards Review Committee, the Training Awards Review Committee, and the SIG Review Committee

Pending Items for 2026-2027:

- SRC Annual Workplan for 2026-2027
- Strategic Research Plan
- CRC EDI Action Plan

The Chair thanks the Senate Research Committee members for their diligence and commitment. The Chair acknowledges the important contributions of the associated review committees, organizing committees, and working groups, and thanks members for their engagement and continued support of the research culture at Nipissing University.

Respectfully Submitted,



Barbi Law, PhD

Associate Vice-President, Research, Innovation, & Graduate Studies

Motion: That Senate receive the 2025-2026 Annual Report of the Senate Research Committee, dated May 29, 2026.

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY

REPORT OF THE TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE

April 27, 2026

Attendance: Graydon Raymer, Nancy Black, Trevor Smith, Steven Cairns, Trevor Holmes, Leslie Thielen-Wilson, and Pat Maher.

Recording Secretary: Stephanie Young.

The meeting was held on April 27, 2026, at 1:00 pm in F214 and via Zoom. The minutes of the previous meeting held on March 26, 2026, were adopted, with Pat Maher abstaining from the vote because he had been absent from that meeting. There was no business arising from the minutes and no reports from other bodies.

In the Director Teaching and Learning's update, the Committee heard that the Centre for Teaching and Learning continues to rebuild staffing, with interviews for the manager position scheduled later that week and five Learning Systems Technologists expected to be on staff as of May 4, 2026. The Director also reported that information on micro-credentials will be presented at the next meeting, that the ticket process worked effectively during the exam period, and that further engagement activities are being considered with the EPS Faculty Council group and with NUFA. The Committee also noted discussion at Senate regarding student representation on the Committee and the timing of student elections, and a suggestion was raised that student representatives could receive Record of Student Development recognition for committee participation and attendance.

Under new business, Nancy Black reported that the library is on track to meet two million visits in the fall, and it was noted that Nancy Black and Trevor Holmes will work on AI-related information for circulation, including the possible creation of a guidance handbook. The Committee also discussed the Academic Integrity Report. Graydon Raymer noted that, at the May 2024 Senate meeting, the Committee had been asked to prepare an academic integrity report addressing the use of AI, and that a new faculty reporting form and workflow system, in place since fall 2025, now track suspected academic misconduct cases, including questions related to AI.

Finally, Steven Cairns reported that the NICE conference is being planned for Thursday, November 12, 2026, with Nipissing University serving as a regional host to support coordination of local interprofessional education efforts and broader networking in Northern Ontario.

The meeting was adjourned, and the next meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,



G. Raymer
Dean, Faculty of Education and Professional Studies

MOTION 1: That Senate receive the Report of the Teaching and Learning Committee dated April 27, 2026.

Academic Misconduct Dashboard - All Faculties

Institutional Overview

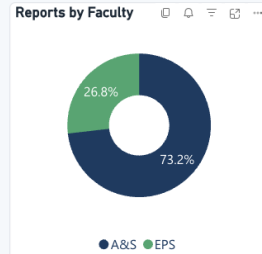
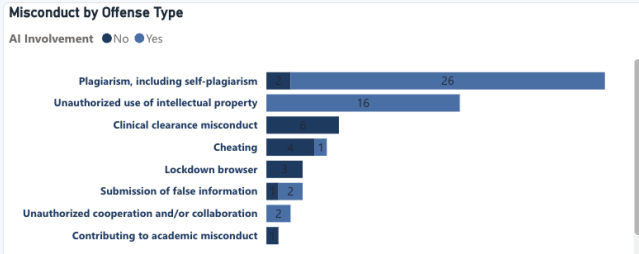
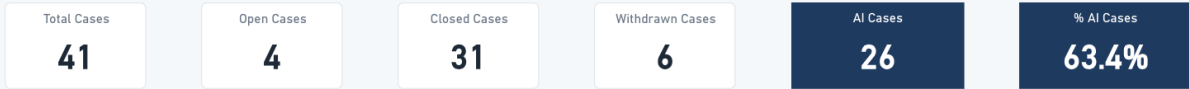
Academic Year: 2025/26

Reset Filters

Note: Data reflects cases processed under the current academic misconduct procedures, with reporting beginning in November 2025.

Last Updated: Apr 22, 2026 - 12:15 PM

Click any chart to filter the page.



Definitions

Open Cases
Currently under review; no final decision.

Closed Cases
Final decision issued; case complete.

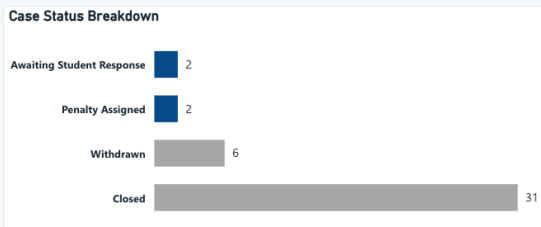
Withdrawn Cases
Submitted but not pursued to decision.

AI Cases
Cases involving artificial intelligence.

% AI Cases
Share of total cases involving AI.

Average Days to Completion
The average days from report to final decision recorded on student file (completed cases only).
Note: Each case is counted once.

Average Days to Completion
29



Case Classification

Classification	Count	Percentage
Minor	19	46.3%
Major	14	34.1%
Withdrawn / n/a	6	14.6%
Pending	2	4.9%

Note: Classifications reflect final determination by the Associate Dean

Academic Misconduct Dashboard - All Faculties

Institutional Overview

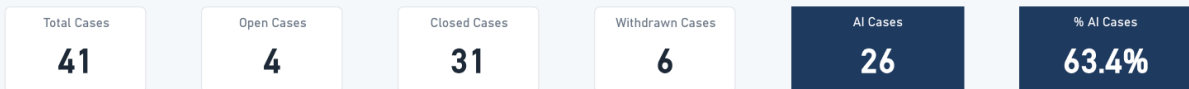
Academic Year: 2025/26

Reset Filters

Note: Data reflects cases processed under the current academic misconduct procedures, with reporting beginning in November 2025.

Last Refresh Display

Click any chart to filter the page.



Misconduct by Offense Type

Misconduct Type	No	Yes
Plagiarism, including self-plagiarism	2	26
Unauthorized use of intellectual property		16
Clinical clearance misconduct	6	
Cheating	4	1
Lockdown browser	3	
Submission of false information	1	2
Unauthorized cooperation and/or collaboration		2
Contributing to academic misconduct	1	
Unauthorized completion of in-class assessment outside of supervised conditions		1

Reports by Faculty

Faculty Short	Total Cases
A&S	30
EPS	11

Definitions

Open Cases
Currently under review; no final decision.

Closed Cases
Final decision issued; case complete.

Withdrawn Cases
Submitted but not pursued to decision.

AI Cases
Cases involving artificial intelligence.

% AI Cases
Share of total cases involving AI.

Average Days to Completion
The average days from report to final decision recorded on student file (completed cases only).
Note: Each case is counted once.

Average Days to Completion
Average Days to Completion
29

Case Status Breakdown

Status Display	Status Case Count
Awaiting Student Response	2
Penalty Assigned	2
Withdrawn	6
Closed	31

Case Classification

Classification	Count	Percentage
Minor	19	46.3%
Major	14	34.1%
Withdrawn / n/a	6	14.6%
Pending	2	4.9%

Note: Classifications reflect final determination by the Associate Dean

Report for Teaching and Learning Committee submitted by Nancy E. Black, PhD

Snapshot of Library activities during the winter term related to teaching, learning and research from January 5th, 2026 to April 24th, 2026.

Numbers reflect use by Nipissing as well as Canadore library users.

Interactions with library users providing instructive guidance:

- Questions at the front desk = **2856**
- Questions via email = **2462**
- In depth Research appointments (generally last at minimum an hour, but may be as long as 2 or 3 hours; provided to researchers by librarians) = **3**
- In depth Research appointments – Archives (generally last at minimum an hour, but may be as long as 2 or 3 hours; provided to researchers by librarians) = **5**

Total interactions: 5326

Information Literacy Instruction Sessions (subject / discipline specific, focused on teaching information searching skills and strategies, how to avoid plagiarism, incorporates information about use of AI with respect to ethical use of information and information integrity)

- Number of Sessions = **45**
- Number of Participants = **2393**

Living Library event, in collaboration with Dr. Mary Pat Sullivan, held Tuesday March 10th, very successful event and well attended. The event, which took just over a year to plan, was organized by Dr. Mary-Pat Sullivan and her team to raise awareness about Rare Dementia and the Rare Dementia Support Group. The Living Library included a variety of activities at the library and the main campus: speakers in the Thomson Reading Room (approximately 70 attended in person); art display in the library atrium (featuring art created by local high school students); informational displays in the library; a play, Piece by Piece (written by a local drama teacher and performed by her students in the theatre, approximately 150 attended in person); and speakers in the Fedeli Theatre (approximately 50 to 60 attended in person).

Number of visits to the library this term - SenSource Traffic Counts: **43,717**

Use of Digital Learning Objects (DLO's)

Number of DLO's = **47**

Number of LibGuides = **31**

LibGuide + Instructional video engagements = **4270**

Library reports completed this term for self-studies in anticipation of IQAP reviews: **1** Master of Environmental Science / Master of Environmental Studies. Two meetings with external reviewers: Nursing, and Education (ITEP; BE.d; MEd; PhD).

Successful search for Scholarly Communication & Research Data Management Librarian; Ms Erin Moorhead, MLIS will join the library team Monday June 8th, 2026. Search for Collections and Instruction Librarian in process.

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY

REPORT OF THE TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE

May 28, 2026

Attendance: Graydon Raymer; Nancy Black; Trevor Smith; Steven Cairns; Trevor Holmes; Leslie Thielen-Wilson; Derek Neal; Louela Manankil-Rankin; Jaden Martin

Recording Secretary: Barbara Popkie

The meeting was held on May 28, 2026, at 1:30 pm in F214 or via Microsoft Teams. The minutes of the previous meeting held on April 27, 2026, were adopted.

In the Director's update, Trevor Holmes presented a PowerPoint update to the Committee. The Committee discussed student engagement, and Jaden Martin from NUSU offered to assist on the student side in relation to teaching effectiveness. The Committee also discussed longer-term planning, the importance of a system to track annual activities, and potential alignment of planned activities with teaching effectiveness. It was further noted that an inclusive instruction series should be added to the near-term plan to address faculty communication with students and accessibility needs, in partnership with SAS and with attention to neurodiversity.

Under new business, Graydon Raymer reported on the final report and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Instructional Settings, noting that Senate had received the report and that this Committee will take up some of the recommendations once meetings resume in the fall. The Committee discussed whether institutions that are further ahead in AI integration should be reviewed for possible best practices, and also considered alternative evaluation approaches including practical wisdom, reflective practice, and simulation-based assessment. The Committee identified a gap in relation to online and distance learning environments, noting limited evidence of a strong community of practice in online settings and the need to recognize the distinct aspects of teaching and learning in distance education. Graydon Raymer also advised that the final AI report will be posted to the website.

The Committee also discussed the 2025–2026 SCES report, raising concern about response rates and the continuing usefulness of the scores. The Committee also discussed the reporting of costs of educational resources, a ministry directive, which is being communicated on to Senate.

Being the final meeting of the academic year, the Committee reviewed its Annual Report to Senate.

Respectfully submitted,



G. Raymer
Dean, Faculty of Education and Professional Studies

MOTION 1: That Senate receive the Report of the Teaching and Learning Committee dated May 28, 2026.

CTL Winter 2026

May Senate TLC update

Trevor Holmes, CTL

Email ctl@nipissingu.ca

W26: workshops, consultations, programs

- Workshops had what I would call strong interest, medium attendance, and mixed reviews. Those that had only 1 person show up will still be part of analysis, but are going to "count" as consultations
- 112 registrations, 55 participants, 26 reviews collected (some not useful due to such low n)
- Ed tech, BB, Cultural Intelligence topics
- Teaching Squares – success for 4 participants (cohesion, further consultation). Presentation about it at Canadore's SoTL conference
- Teaching Observations x3 W26
- Consultations: rubrics, participation grades, dossiers, Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, program design and mapping, ed tech

Workshops by the numbers

We planned 14 workshops (some repeats); 2 were cancelled due to illness and 1 due to low enrolment (we will count 1 participant as a consultation)

- 112 intended to attend one or more of 14 planned workshops
- 55 actually attended one or more of the 11 workshops that ran
- 26 feedback forms and across all forms, 2.3/5 avg with generally positive comments and some constructive criticism
- Room to improve satisfaction scores – some loved and some didn't love, some found things a bit rushed or scattered. Plan is to buddy up on every workshop, and offer facilitation PD for facilitators. Most people got new ideas they plan to use even when they were not the anticipated ideas or the ideal delivery of the ideas/tools.

Behind-the-scenes achievements

- 2 LSTs returned to CTL, 5 total FT permanent current state, 1 more makes 6 once more clarity around a position on leave.
- Increased ID capacity temporarily to support Nursing new and revision processes (pre-packaged); dedicated LST time for Business similarly, as well as Micro-credential growth and New Faculty connections
- Teaching Effectiveness definition consultation rolling out (FPES = 77% of faculty, CTL meeting, next come NUFA and A&S, would like to engage students
- Hired Manager, Digital Learning Strategy and Support (Begins July 6)

Achievements, continued

- Requested new joint position with OII (details to follow)
- New process for workshop life cycle including design, communications, feedback. New process for counting consultations and other engagements with faculty, staff, and TAs
- Ticket analysis and exam debrief leads to new processes
- Teaching quotes moved to hallway, screens live in lounge and hallway
- Canadore SoTL conference, OUCEL, eCampus, OCULL reconnections
- Commitment to NICE and Grad Ed conferences support

Near term plans

- **Workshop series**
 - Inclusive instruction series – adding 1-2 more workshops per term (some collaborative with SAS on Working with Accommodations)
 - Assessment workshops – taking account of AI – reading groups, Communities of Practice (CoPs) may work better for some topics
 - Blackboard workshops re: content tools, content organization
 - Experiential Learning – land-based, WIL, etc. – CoPs as well?
 - Revise (possibly) curriculum mapping guidance
 - Drop-ins with Sapna and others, July and August BB prep
 - Grad Supervision practices, grad student TA workshops
- **Involvement in WIL, LMS procurement exercises, APOP progress, Website and comms, New Faculty further programming**



Longer term plans

- Course Design and Redesign days and week
- Instructional Skills Workshop (ISW) rollout for TAs and Faculty, including annual Facilitator Development Workshop (FDW)
- Online ISW exploration
- Outcomes and pathways for instructor curriculum
- Innovation in education, educational leadership as core to Nipissing
- Policy consistency work
- Data-informed decisions
- Support for particular groups including first-year instructors, certain class size instructors (e.g. 7% of our courses in a given term are over 75 students), racialized instructors, Indigenous part-time instructors, online asynchronous instructors, etc.

Need Senate TLC support for...

- AI in instructional settings *implementation* plan following on from Ad Hoc Committee recommendations
- Some questions about exam types
- Teaching Effectiveness definitions and possible dossier, peer review protocols and interpretation guidance

STUDENT COURSE EXPERIENCE SURVEY REPORT – 2025-2026

Fall 2025

Invited: 22,292

Responded: 1,486

Response Rate: 6.7% (SD 8.2%)

Program Response Rate Range: 0.0% - 42.1%

Winter 2026

Invited: 22,038

Responded: 875

Response Rate: 4.0% (SD 5.6%)

Program Response Rate Range: 0.0% - 23.3%

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS COST, REPORTING
Dean's Office, Faculty of Arts and Science

1. The methods used to report costs of educational materials to students - syllabi and/or a website.

The Faculty of Arts and Science reports cost of educational materials to students on each course syllabi.

2. The percentage of courses that include this information in their syllabi. If it is less than 100%, when are we going to reach 100%?

90% of courses included this information on the course syllabi.

TOTAL –	538/595	90%
FW-	35/60	68%
FA-	259/288	90%
WI-	244/247	98%

- Areas for potential errors- courses that are cross-listed, multiple of the same IND/Seminar courses, cancelled course not removed from the spreadsheet.

3. The percentage of courses that include this information in their syllabi, or an alternative method of communication. If it is less than 100%, when are we going to reach 100%?

90% of courses included this information on the course syllabi. Alternative methods are in addition to the syllabus record of cost.

4. A summary of current and planned communications to students on where to find information on educational costs.

Cost of education materials is communicated to the students on the course syllabi at the beginning of each course.

5. We are expected reach full compliance by this academic year (25-26)

The Faculty of Arts and Science is on track to full compliance for the 26FW term. Prior to the beginning of each term Faculty and instructors are sent an email that include reference to the CA. A segment of the email template is included below. There is also a process in place to send a reminder email at the end of the first week of each term.

FASBU:

"We kindly ask that you please provide the Dean's Office with a copy of your preliminary course syllabi to as_syllabus@nipissingu.ca as per Article 18.2 (i) in the Collective Agreement.

"One month prior to the beginning of each term, each Dean will inform Members in the Dean's Faculty that preliminary course syllabi must be filed electronically with the Dean's Office no later than two weeks prior to the start of a course. Members will be sent confirmation of receipt of course syllabi. If there are any changes to the preliminary syllabi, final versions will be sent to the Dean electronically no later than two weeks after the first scheduled class."

Please note that you are required to submit course syllabi for Independent Studies (IND), Directed Studies, Thesis courses as well as for Graduate Studies. If your course has labs, please include the week-by-week schedule of activities. It is important to have the syllabi available on file in the Dean's Office in the event a student requires a transfer credit to attend another institution or wanting to transfer credits to Nipissing.

Textbooks and Learning Resources

*The Ministry directive is that each syllabus must contain a statement about the **cost of textbooks/learning resources**. This is an opportunity to communicate costs of required and recommended resources to students."*

CASBU:

"We kindly ask that you please provide the Dean's Office with a copy of your preliminary course syllabi to as_syllabus@nipissingu.ca as per the Collective Agreement (CASBU Article 16.2 (k))

"At the beginning of each term, each Dean will inform CASBU Members in the Dean's Faculty that preliminary course syllabi must be filed with the Dean's Office by the end of the first week of the Fall term for courses commencing in the Fall term; by the end of the first week of the Winter term for courses commencing in the Winter term; and by the end of the first week for courses commencing in intercession, Spring term or Summer term. Members will be sent confirmation of receipt of course syllabi. If a Member makes changes to the preliminary course syllabi, a final version will be sent to the Dean electronically no later than two weeks after the first scheduled class."

It is important to have the syllabi available on file in the Dean's Office in the event a student requires a transfer credit to attend another institution or wanting to transfer credits to Nipissing.

Textbooks and Learning Resources

*The Ministry directive is that each syllabus must contain a statement about the **cost of textbooks/learning resources**. This is an opportunity to communicate costs of required and recommended resources to students."*

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS COST, REPORTING
Dean's Office, Faculty of Education and Professional Studies

6. The methods used to report costs of educational materials to students - syllabi and/or a website.

The Faculty of Education and Professional Studies reports cost of educational materials to students on each course syllabi.

7. The percentage of courses that include this information in their syllabi. If it is less than 100%, when are we going to reach 100%?

In Fall 2025 and Winter 2026, there were 856 course sections in the Faculty of Education and Professional Studies. Course syllabi were submitted by instructors for 640 of the 856 sections (75%).

Of the 640 syllabi received, 100% of these included information in the syllabus regarding the costs of education materials.

In other words, the Faculty of Education and Professional Studies has 100% compliance in 75% of courses, or 75% compliance overall.

8. The percentage of courses that include this information in their syllabi, or an alternative method of communication. If it is less than 100%, when are we going to reach 100%?

100% of the syllabi received from instructors, comprising 75% of faculty course sections, included this information on the course syllabi.

There is not an alternative method of communication.

Reaching 100% communication requires all instructors to submit course syllabi as required under the Collective Agreement with faculty. The Dean's office regularly requests and reminds instructors; approximately 25% do not respond each year.

Reaching 100% will require further attention and intervention by the Dean with specific instructors who are not compliant with legislative and contractual obligations. This requires added work to meet the Provincial directive.

9. A summary of current and planned communications to students on where to find information on educational costs.

Cost of educational materials is communicated to the students on each course syllabus at the beginning of each term.

10. We are expected reach full compliance by this academic year (25-26)

The Faculty of Education and Professional Studies has 100% compliance on the inclusion of the costs of educational materials *when instructors provide their syllabi*. We strive for 100% compliance across 100% of courses. Prior to the beginning of each term Faculty and instructors are sent an email include reference to the CA. A segment of the email template is included below. There is also a process in place to send a reminder email at the end of the first week of each term. The Dean's office then regularly attempts to follow up with instructors who have not submitted syllabi. When syllabi are submitted without costs of educational resources included, the Dean's office asks the instructor to add these and resubmit.

As the 2025/26 Winter semester is about to begin, here are some important reminders:

Please use the Senate-approved University Syllabus Template (attached) for all of your courses.

The Ontario government requires that all course syllabi must include the specific cost(s) of any required or recommended resources (e.g. textbooks, instructional supplies, etc) for your course. This means:

- Each required or recommended resource must be listed and individually costed. That is, while bundled packages may exist, it is required to also list the cost of each component individually.
- You must include a note if used (second-hand) resources are acceptable for students to use in your course.
- If your program has program-specific costs (e.g. lab coat, stethoscope, etc), your Chair or Director will provide this information to you.

The attached syllabus template provides space to communicate costs of required and recommended resources to students.

When choosing your required and recommended, please be mindful of the University policy on Digital Learning Resources.

The Ontario government also has directed universities with respect to third-party digital resources. Per the University policy ([https://www.nipissingu.ca/sites/default/files/2024-01/POLICY-](https://www.nipissingu.ca/sites/default/files/2024-01/POLICY-Digital%20Learning%20Resources%20and%20...)

[Digital%20Learning%20Resources%20and%20...](https://www.nipissingu.ca/sites/default/files/2024-01/POLICY-Digital%20Learning%20Resources%20and%20...))

please ensure that you only require/recommend use of any third-party digital learning resources such as applications (apps), software, programs, or websites that engage students in learning activities and support students' learning goals when:

- the functionality is not reasonably available through University-supported tools (e.g, Blackboard Ultra); AND,
- the cost of these resources to a student is no more than \$100 in total, before taxes, for a single term three-credit course; AND,
- assessments in your course that require use of these resources constitute a total of 20% or less of the final grade in the course.



Annual Report of the Teaching and Learning Committee of Senate

May 28, 2026

During the 2025-2026 Academic Year, the Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC) was scheduled to meet on eight occasions on the following dates: September 18, 2025, November 25, 2025, December 19, 2025, January 22, 2026, February 26, 2026, March 26, 2026, April 27, 2026, and May 28, 2026. The TLC did not achieve quorum for the January 22 meeting; therefore the summary below does not include this meeting.

<u>Members</u>	<u>Attendance (7 meetings)</u>
Graydon Raymer (Dean of EPS)	7
Nancy Black (Executive Director, Library Services)	7
Steven Cairns (EPS Senator)	7
Louela Manankil-Rankin (EPS non-Senator)	3
Leslie Thielen-Wilson (A&S Senator)	5
Derek Neal (A&S non-Senator)	6
Pat Maher (EPS Senator)	5
Trevor Smith (A&S Senator)	7
Dakota Lamirande (NUSU A&S Undergraduate student rep)	1
Jaden Martin (NUSU EPS Undergraduate student rep)	1
William MacKenzie (NUSU Graduate student rep)	1
Trevor Holmes (Director, Teaching & Learning)	5

Some of the substantive items completed or discussed by the TLC in the 2025-2026 Academic year included the following:

1. Updates and discussion on reports from the Director of Teaching and Learning;
2. Discussion of the Student Course Experience Survey and related reports;
3. Discussion and proposed recommendations to the Final Exam Policy;
4. Review and discussion of the Digital Learning and Field Trips Policy;
5. Discussion and review of the Teaching and Learning Committee membership and terms of reference;
6. Review and discussion of reports from Library Services;
7. Review and discussion of proposed placement, professionalism, and attendance policies;
8. Discussion on effective teaching;
9. Discussion and review of the annual academic integrity report;
10. Discussion and review of the annual report on the costs of required learning resources; and,
11. Review and discussion of the Final Report and Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Instructional Settings.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graydon Raymer'.

Dr. Graydon Raymer
Dean, Faculty of Education and Professional Studies

MOTION 1: That Senate Executive receive the Annual Report of the Teaching and Learning Committee dated May 28, 2026.

Amendment of By-laws – June 12, 2026

Motion 16: That Senate approve that Article 1.1(y) of the Senate By-laws be amended as outlined below:

1.1 General Definitions

- (y) “non-voting” means a committee member appointed for their expertise in relation to the Committee’s Terms of Reference. They are permitted to speak but are not permitted to vote or make motions.

Motion 17: That Senate approve that Article 2.1(vii) & (ix) of the Senate By-laws be amended as outlined below:

2.1 *Ex Officio* Senators

- (a) The following shall be *ex officio* voting members of Senate:

- (i) the President;
- (ii) the Provost Vice President Academic;
- (iii) The Vice President responsible for Finance and Administration
- (iv) The Associate Vice-President Research, Innovation and Graduate Studies;
- (v) the Deans;
- (vi) the Registrar;
- (vii) the Executive Director, Library Services;
- (viii) the Director of the Office of Indigenous Initiatives; and
- (ix) the Director of the Centre for Teaching and Learning.

The Senate Executive Committee requested that the following motion be removed from the Senate Agenda and referred back to the Teaching and Learning Committee for further discussion:

~~Motion 18: That Senate approve that Article 9.12(a)(ii) & (b)(i) of the Senate By-laws be amended as outlined below:~~

~~9.12 Teaching and Learning Committee~~

- ~~(a) *Ex Officio* and Student Members:~~

- ~~(i) the Dean of Education and Professional Studies;~~
- ~~(ii) the Director of Teaching and Learning (Chair)~~
- ~~(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.~~

- ~~(b) Members Elected by Faculty Council:~~

- ~~(i) four (4) Faculty Senators, with at least one (1) from each Faculty;~~
- ~~(ii) two (2) non-Senator Faculty; one elected from each Faculty.~~

The Senate Executive Committee requested that the following motion be removed from the Senate Agenda and referred back to the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee for further discussion:

~~Motion 19: That Senate approve that Article 9.4.1(b)(vii) & (viii) of the Senate By-laws be amended as outlined below:~~

~~9.4.1 Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee (AQAPC)~~

~~(b) Ex Officio and Student Members:~~

- ~~(i) the PVPA, or designate (Chair);~~
- ~~(ii) the AVPRIGS or designate;~~
- ~~(iii) all Deans, or designates;~~
- ~~(iv) the Registrar, or designate;~~
- ~~(v) the Director of Institutional Research and Planning;~~
- ~~(vi) the Executive Director, Library Services;~~
- ~~(vii) the Director of the Office of Indigenous Initiatives~~
- ~~(viii) the Director of the Centre for Teaching and Learning~~
- ~~(ix) the Manager of Quality Assurance and Program Innovation (non-voting)~~
- ~~(x) one (1) representative chosen by and from the Board of Governors;~~
- ~~(xi) one (1) student Senator from the NUSU Executive or designate;~~
- ~~(xii) one (1) undergraduate student representative;~~
- ~~(xiii) one (1) graduate student representative.~~