

Nipissing University
Minutes of the Academic Senate Meeting
October 24, 2025
2:30 p.m.
Room F210 & Zoom Videoconference

Members Present:

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

R. Davis, H. Earl, R. Gendron, A. Hatef, K. Lucas, G. McCann, P. Nosko, M. Owens, T. Smith, K. Srigley (Interim Speaker), S. Srigley, T. Stewart, L. Thielen-Wilson, H. Zhu

S. Cairns, C. Greco, D. Hemsworth, T. Horton, D. Jarvis, A. Kociolek, A. Leblond, A. Nkurunziza, C. Ricci, A. Schinkel-Ivy, I. Taveres, V. Williams

C. Irwin, O. Pokorny, R. Kasperavicius

F. Couchie

R. Hehn

J. Martin, N. Botham, O. Remillard

Absent With Regrets:

S. Kariuki, G. Phillips (Speaker), H. Texiera, R. Vernescu, M. Suszter, A. Adler, J. Allison, P. Maher, P. Millar, M. Sullivan, J. Thornborrow

The Interim Senate Speaker offered a Traditional Territory acknowledgement.

Adoption of the Agenda of the Senate Meeting of: October 24, 2025

Motion 1: Moved by V. Williams, seconded by R. Gendron that the agenda of the October 24, 2025, be approved.
CARRIED

Adoption of the Minutes of the Senate Meeting of: September 12, 2025

The Interim Speaker indicated an amendment to correct the meeting time in the minutes from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm will be completed. Additionally, a concern was raised that the student survey discussion was not fully captured in the minutes, noting an inquiry that was made about paper surveys and the response given at the September meeting regarding the prevalence of online courses. The Teaching and Learning Committee recommended administering the survey online. The Interim Chair of this committee will submit changes to the Senate Secretary to reflect this recommendation in the September Senate minutes.

Motion 2: Moved by M. Owens, seconded by S. Srigley that the minutes of the Senate meeting of September 12, 2025 be adopted.
CARRIED

Business Arising From the Minutes

In response to an inquiry about the number of academic misconduct cases for the 2024-25 academic year, the Registrar reported 38 cases – two-thirds from Arts & Science and one-third from Education and Professional Studies. Eleven faculty members were involved across all cases. Further details, such as breakdowns by major/minor and course, as well as information on misconduct related to clinical clearance, will be provided in the next report. A new process to consistently track and record academic misconduct, ensure confidentiality, and include data on AI involvement has been implemented, allowing for improved data collection in the future.

Reports From Other Bodies

The President's report is appended to the minutes.

The President also provided a report on behalf of the Provost and Vice-President Academic. The report highlighted the appointment of Dr. Charles Anyinam as the Interim Associate Dean, School of Nursing. Dr. Wamsley also extended his appreciation to Dr. Karey McCullough for her leadership and commitment to the School of Nursing.

A number of academic and program updates were provided, highlighting the completion of a comprehensive review of the BScN course prerequisites to better support student progression and academic sequencing.

Enrolment data will be reported in the next Senate cycle. The Strategic Enrolment Mandate Working Group continues to meet regularly to review recruitment and retention data.

With respect to governance and policy developments, work is ongoing on the Amalgamation, Consolidation, Transfer, Renaming and Closure of Academic Programs and Academic Units Policy through AQAPC. The Efficiency and Accountability Framework (EAF) Implementation Plan also remains a focus, with several governance actions underway. The Senate Executive and By-laws Committees have met to review and consider the recommendations through EAF, and Senate will receive updates as they become available.

The Vice-President Finance and Administration provided an oral report, noting Nipissing University is currently on budget for the 2025-26 year. Shortfalls in international tuition are being balanced by increased grant revenues and domestic tuition. Planning for the 2026-27 budget year is underway, with recognition that international tuition shortfalls will affect future multi-year forecasts. Overall, the financial situation remains stable, and the institution continues to monitor funding stability.

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

The NUSU VP Advocacy and Awareness provided an oral report, speaking to the repurposing of the restaurant in the NUSU Student Centre to a games room for student access. She also highlighted the success of homecoming weekend, with 1500 attendees throughout the day and 550 for the evening activities. Director and Student Senator elections have completed, and results are available on the NUSU website.

Question Period

Several questions and concerns were raised regarding the governance recommendations through the EAF Implementation Plan, including concerns around language used within the recommendations. The Interim Speaker reiterated that no decisions have been finalized and that there will be broader consultation. She encouraged Senators to send their feedback to the committee. It was noted that the language within the recommendations did not originate from the university but rather through the external audit process.

In response to a question about the policy review process, the President indicated an external advisor will be hired to lead a comprehensive review, with input from various university stakeholders.

A Senator raised concerns around the limited mention of Science and STEM programming in the Strategic and Academic Plans and advocated for increased support. The President and the Dean, Arts & Science, responded by outlining strategic plans for growth in science programs, including the introduction of the BSc in Environmental Science and targeted hiring.

Reports of Standing Committees and Faculty or University Councils**Senate Executive Committee**

Motion 3: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by T. Smith that Senate receive the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated October 16, 2025, which includes for information:

- a) The 2025-26 Graduate Studies Committee Work Plan;
- b) The 2025-26 Senate Research Committee Work Plan; and
- c) The 2025-26 Teaching and Learning Committee Work Plan.

CARRIED

Graduate Studies Committee

Motion 4: Moved by B. Law, seconded by N. Black that Senate receive the Report of the Graduate Studies Committee dated September 24, 2025.

CARRIED

Senate Research Committee

Motion 5: Moved by B. Law, seconded by N. Black that Senate receive the Report of the Senate Research Committee dated September 19, 2025.

CARRIED

Teaching and Learning Committee

A correction to the attendance of the committee was made prior to the motion.

Motion 6: Moved by G. Raymer, seconded by D. Iafrate that Senate receive the Report of the Teaching and Learning Committee dated September 18, 2025.

CARRIED

Elections

The following positions required elections:

- Elect one (1) faculty Senate representative to serve on the Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance

Senator Chris Greco was acclaimed to the position.

- Elect two (2) faculty Senate representatives to serve on the Senate Budget Advisory Committee

Senators Hilary Earl and Dan Jarvis were acclaimed to the positions.

- Elect one (1) faculty Senate representative to serve as Deputy Speaker of Senate for a term

No nominations were received for the interim Deputy Speaker position, and the election will be included on the November 21, 2025, meeting of the Academic Senate.

New Business

Motion 7: Moved by D. Iafrate, seconded by T. Horton that Senate consider receipt of the Report on Graduation Applicants dated October 17, 2025.
CARRIED

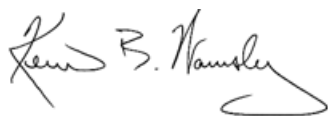
Motion 8: Moved by D. Iafrate, seconded by V. Williams that Senate receive the Report of Graduation Applicants dated October 17, 2025.
CARRIED

Motion 9: Moved by D. Iafrate, seconded by M. Owens that Senate grant approval to graduate the students in the Report on Graduation Applicants dated October 17, 2025.
CARRIED

The Deans read out the October 17, 2025, graduands by faculty and degree and congratulated the students and faculty on their achievements.

Adjournment

Senate was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.



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Kevin Wamsley, Chair



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Abby Blaszczyk, University Secretary

At October 24th, 2025 Senate meeting, the Registrar, provided additional information on Academic Misconduct as requested in September 12th, Senate meeting.

24FW		
Subject Code	# of Major	# of Minor
ENGL		7
ORGS	12	
ACAD	7	2
GEOG		2
PSYC	1	
COSC	2	
DATA	1	
PHIL	2	
ACCT	1	
MKTG	1	
Total*	27	11

- 38 Reports of Academic Misconduct for the 24FW academic year
- 11 faculty for all 38 reports
- *10 Misconduct reports for Clinical Clearance Documentation in 24FW not included in the above total
- EPS represents 37% of the above reported misconducts, and 63% from A&S

24SS		
Subject Code	# of Major	# of Minor
ORGS		1
GEOG	1	
PSYC		1
GEND	1	m
NSGD	2	

Total 4 5

- 9 Academic Dishonesty Reports total for the 24SS term
- 5 faculty for all 9 reports
- EPS represents 33% of the above reported misconducts, and 66% from A&S

A new academic misconduct workflow was launched October 22nd, that will improve reporting efficiency, consistency, communication and data reporting. The new workflow also includes tracking AI related misconduct reports.

24 October 2025

President's Senate Report

Good afternoon Senators. I will be providing two reports today- the usual President's Report but also the Provost's Report. I'm sure many of you have questions with respect to the recent changes in leadership. I want to assure you that we are in a very stable position with respect to our current senior leadership team, our finances, with respect to our work on strategic planning, on our operational and academic plans, on our Project Integrate for enrolment, on our policy review, our efficiencies and governance reviews, quality assurance, our hiring for next year, and in all of our student services. We will begin our search for the next Provost shortly and will require four Senators to sit on the hiring committee; we will be hiring a search firm to conduct a national search in short order with a mind towards a July 1, 2026 start date. We will welcome Carole Richardson as our Interim Provost as of October 28. Please know that we have completed some very important academic work recently and we will be continuing that work and not changing course. As Chair of Senate, I will be stepping in to co-chair the governance work with our Senate Speaker, Dr. Srigley and I will be pleased to step in and assist the Interim Provost as necessary.

With respect to our conversations with the Province, they continue. We have been meeting about the funding formula and we will send a team to Laurentian University in November to meet with the Province, as they are conducting regional meetings to discuss funding with all of the universities. There has been no further commentary about university governance from the Province.

The Pariaggroup has submitted its Equity and Reconciliation audits and we have invited that group to provide a public presentation of its recommendations to Nipissing University within the next few weeks.

As you know, there has been some reconsideration of our Professor Emeritus/Emerita process. This is a process which was delegated to our Honorary Degrees Committee which includes faculty, staff, students, and Board members. In my estimation, these procedures and approvals should belong to Senate, so we will endeavour to have a proposal for Senate vetted by the appropriate subcommittee prior to the next Senate meeting.

The paths have been roughed in and the footings poured for lighting and the timber is supposed to arrive shortly for our outdoor classroom. We anticipate that we will be using the classroom before the Christmas break and that we can begin to take bookings in January. Dave Drenth has provided some visuals for you, although we won't know exactly what it looks like until it is completed. We will organize an appropriate opening and tours as soon as it is possible.

Tomorrow we will be welcoming over 300 visitors to our Fall Open House. Our thanks to those of you who are volunteering your time tomorrow for this very important event.



Board of Governors Report to Senate – October 2025

Board of Governors Meeting September 25, 2025

The Board of Governors met on Thursday, September 25, 2025, In the President's Boardroom and via Zoom remote conferencing.

The Chair welcomed new members, Dr. Denyse Lafrance Horning, Dr. Tyson Stewart, Robin Tonna and Frank Miscio. He also welcomed back Joe Sinicrope and Stacie Fiddler after receiving notice of their LGIC reappointments during the summer months.

The Board reviewed the Audited Financial Statements in detail for the year ended April 30, 2025, and approved them as presented. The Financial Statements are available to view on the University's website.

The Board of Governors next meets on December 4, 2025.

