

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING

October 6, 2006
2:30 p.m. – Room F210

MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Mock, P. Ricketts, R. Common, D. Lawrence, R. Vanderlee,
R., Wideman

J. Barker, R. Bergquist, G. Brophey, K. Brozowski, E. Cholewa,
A. Clendinning, T. Dokis, H. Earl, AB Graff, D. Jowett, A. Karassev,
S. Karikuki, L. Kruk, U. Kundrats, S. Lechlitner, J. LeClair, S. Mayhall,
C. McFarlane, S. Muhlberger, D. Murphy, F. Noël, M. Owens, A. Page,
L. Patriquin, L. Penno, G. Pyle, S. Renshaw, A. Sparkes, K. Srigley,
R. Teigrob, K. Topps, M. Tuncali, D. Walters, M. Wachowiak

J. Allison, D. Brackenreed, T. Campbell, J. Corkett, E. Duncan,
S. Elliott-Johns, K. Ferguson, R. Fix, L. Frost, B. Hatt, M. Kariuki,
K. Kirkwood, J. Long, K. MacLeod, C. Richardson, W. Richardson,
O. Ridler

P. Gavan, D. Pletzer

S. Feretycki, K. Knapp, K. Marsh

T. Benevides

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: B. Nettlefold

J. Baffoe (leave), E. Berger, W. Borody, D. Geden, P. Kelly,
J. Kovacs (leave), S. Lawlor (leave), G. Phillips (leave), C. Sarlo (leave),
S. Srigley, K. Stange (leave), S. Winters, W. Young

J. Barnett, D. Berry (leave), M. Cantalini-Williams, D. Franks,
T. Horton (leave), P. Joong, H. Langford (leave), M. McCabe,
J. McIntosh, K. Noël, B. Olmsted, J. Price, K. Quigg, S. Reid, H. Rintoul,
C. Shields, L. Vokes-Leduc

M. Couchie

ABSENT:

N J Baker, R. Breton, G. Brown, N. Brown, R. Brozowski, P. Chow,
T. Curwen, A. Dean, D. Flynn, D. Hackett, D. Hall, D. Hemsworth,
J. Knox, T. Koivukoski, E. Mattson, G. Morrell, I. Mueller, P. Nosko,
S. O'Hagan, T. Parkes, D. Rowbotham, J. Ryan, M. Saari, B. Schreyer,
M. Sroga, D. Tabachnick, V. Valov, A. Weeks, H. Zhu

AM Aquino, A. Bell, K. Clausen, R. Davis, H. Gardner, R. Graham, D. Gosse, C. Harvey, D. Jarvis, L. Keuhl, K. Kirkwood, G. Laronde, R. Lynn, N. Maynes, B. McMahon, M. Parr, MA Parr, C. Ricci, T. Ryan, J. Scott, G. Sharpe, I. Sinfield, M. Szakacs, K. Waller, N. Zur Nedden

B. Overholt

MOTION 1: Moved by K. Topps, seconded by M. Tuncali that the minutes of the meeting of September 15, 2006 be adopted.

CARRIED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The President made several brief announcements and began by thanking the senators who took the opportunity to attend the monastery open house and view this newly acquired space. He indicated that the university is open to suggestions as to how it should be used.

Senator Mock was pleased to report that admissions numbers were starting out on a positive note with overall enrollment of more than 6700 registered students. This included students at the Muskoka and Brantford campuses as well as students registered in MEd and AQ courses.

At the recent Ontario University Fair (OUF) in Toronto, there were 46 staff members that represented Nipissing. The President thanked all faculty who participated. He noted that compared to last year, almost 3000 more pieces of literature were distributed. It was also noted that our profile in the Metropolitan Toronto area has improved.

On September 29, there was a Council of Ontario Universities' retreat. Much of the discussion was on the multi-year accountability agreement. This is an agreement whereby the provincial government has requested all universities to identify new initiatives spanning the next three years. Senator Mock indicated that a draft of our agreement has already been submitted to MTCU with mostly positive feedback. The President's Budgetary Advisory Committee met and was apprised of the submission. This committee includes representation from all employee groups. Senator Mock thanked Senator Lawrence for his work on this submission.

The President also noted that the university has signed off on the Student Access Guarantee. This is a commitment to the government that students in need will have access to the resources required for their tuition, books, and other mandatory fees to fund a portion of the unmet need not received from OSAP. Previously, Nipissing had used 30% of the tuition increase as a clawback to fund programs such as NipWorks, practicum travel for education students, etc. Now, the government has specified where and how this money must be spent. This has a negative impact on Nipissing since we have the highest number of students in the province who are on OSAP. This may result in using operating money to fund NipWork positions.

Other discussions at COU included the Maclean's survey and the fact that 14 universities in Ontario have not submitted data. Senator Mock indicated that COU and Ontario universities are going to release a common data set about programs, admission policies, student life, entering grades, class size, etc. This will also be an opportunity for institutions to provide output factors, a concept not included in the Maclean's survey. By the end of October, this information will be available via a COU website link. Coincidentally, at the same time, the Globe and Mail will be releasing their annual university report card. The President also noted that the CUSC and NSSE surveys have been received and are currently being analyzed.

Dr. Mock was pleased to announce that following the November 10 Senate meeting, there will be a senate/staff/board barbecue. It is at this time, the university community will pay a tribute to Dr. Ted Chase.

The Vice-President Academic and Research also extended his congratulations to all faculty, staff and students for their efforts at the OUF.

Senator Ricketts announced that he had heard from CFI, informally, that Nipissing's application for the science/research complex funding was not recommended for funding. He indicated he hoped that CFI would provide feedback.

A new Manager of Business Innovation and Technology Transfer has been hired effective November 1. This new position will work with the university and faculty to develop linkages with business and industry in North Bay and region. Senator Ricketts pointed out that this position is funded through the Ontario Partnership for Innovation and Commercialization consortium (OPIC).

The Vice-President also indicated that he and Paule Laberge recently returned from Ottawa where they met with NSERC and SSHRC officials. The purpose of these meetings was to establish a presence with these two organizations so as to ensure that Nipissing University is on their agenda. Dr. Ricketts also had the opportunity to hear a presentation from Dr. Peter Nicholson, President of the Council of Canadian Academies. This presentation included information on science and technology in Canada, the federal government's review of granting agencies and a presentation from the new President of SSHRC, Dr. Chad Gaffield.

The Dean of Education made a brief announcement regarding the Ontario College of Teachers. For senators who are not aware of this, he noted that OCT is charged with accrediting faculties of education in the Province of Ontario. Senator Common added that there has been increased tension between OCT and the education faculties noting that OCT is attempting to micromanage the faculties.

NUSU President, Kyle Marsh reminded senators that when e-mails go out to the "everybody distribution list", NUSU is not part of that list. E-mails may be found at the NUSU website. Senator Marsh was pleased to report that the results of recent elections are as follows: Social Sciences, Genevieve de Bruyn; Humanities, Madison Stoneman; Professional Schools, Matthew Bradley; Residence, Ian Wassink; and Director of the Faculty of Education, Catherine Dahmer. NUSU is also delighted to report that they will be awarding a \$5000 research grant for a faculty member and student to partner together on a research project. This grant will be going through the University Research Council.

QUESTION PERIOD

Senator K. Srigley urged senators to attend the women's campus safety meeting on November 9 in the Board Room. There followed an extensive discussion regarding the Personal Harassment and Discrimination Committee (PHDC) and its mandate, membership, reporting mechanisms, etc. It was determined that Senator Frost is the Senate representative and Senator M. Kariuki is the NUFA representative. The Senate representative indicated that the committee had not met in a number of years. It was further established that a meeting is usually held only if there is a complaint. The Associate Vice-President of Human Resources, Connie Vander Wall, noted that a complaint may not necessarily go directly to a PHDC member but could be reported to a NUFA or Senate representative or to an outside agency such as the police or the Human Rights Commission. This was a choice that the complainant must make. The PHDC operates under mediation guidelines with confidentiality and privacy strictly adhered to.

There were several suggestions put forward including a change in policy that would see the PHDC summarize and report information to Senate. This would allow for the PHDC to respect the confidentiality issue but also remain transparent and be seen as responding to complaints. A suggestion was also made about hiring a person with expertise in harassment and discrimination policy. It was noted that this person would serve in an arms length capacity. There were comments regarding the expertise that was already available from senators, however, Ms. Vander Wall noted that ideally, this person should have a legal background and that this would cost money. She also noted that the Women's Safety Committee and the Campus Safety Audit have previously been fortunate if 10 people attended. On November 9, there will be a Committee meeting and safety audit and Ms. Vander Wall strongly urged senators to attend.

The Senate Speaker asked if senators would be comfortable with a review of Nipissing's policy on harassment and discrimination, the results of which would be reported to Senate. The President responded by stating that harassment is everyone's concern and that the new Manager, Environmental Health and Safety will look at structures in place at other institutions. He indicated he would report back to Senate.

Senator K. Srigley requested that a recommendation be recorded as the following motion:

MOTION 2: Moved by K. Srigley, seconded by H. Earl that the mandate of the Personal Harassment and Discrimination Committee be reviewed along with comparative data from other universities.
CARRIED

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Executive Committee

MOTION 3: Moved by U. Kundrafs, seconded by R. Vanderlee that the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated September 28, 2006 be received.
CARRIED

Academic Planning Committee

MOTION 4: Moved by P. Ricketts, seconded by S. Muhlberger that the Report of the Academic Planning Committee dated September 29, 2006 be received.
CARRIED

MOTION 5: Moved by P. Ricketts, seconded by R. Common that Senate grant Stage 1 approval to develop a full-time Master of Education in Curriculum Leadership Studies.
CARRIED

Admissions, Promotions and Petitions Committee

MOTION 6: Moved by A. Sparkes, seconded by K. Marsh that the Report of the Admissions, Promotions and Petitions Committee dated September 15, 2006 be received.
CARRIED

MOTION 7: Moved by A. Sparkes, seconded by K. Marsh that the students listed on Appendix A, who have completed all requirements of their respective degrees, be admitted to their degrees in-course and that diplomas for the degree be awarded.
CARRIED

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

Senator Benevides, Alumni Representative, updated Senate on the golf tournament that was held at Highview Golf Course on September 23. She also noted that there will be a pancake breakfast at Brantford on October 26. A new café series is also commencing on October 28 with Senator Reid being the first guest speaker. The Alumni Association is also working on their part of the strategic plan at their annual retreat.

The Senate Representative on the Pension Committee, reminded senators that back in the spring, the committee blocked some international funds. Senator Lawrence noted that the committee is still investigating the acquisition other funds to round out the international selection, but has been unsuccessful in finding any that are impressive.

ELECTIONS

Election of one Senator to serve on the Pension Committee

F. Noël nominated B. Bergquist

G. Pyle nominated E. Cholewa

MOTION 8: Moved by S. Renshaw, seconded by G. Pyle that nominations cease.
CARRIED

Elected: B. Bergquist

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 9: Moved by A. Sparkes, seconded by K. Marsh that Senate do now adjourn:
 4:19 p.m.
 CARRIED

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D. Mock, President

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D. Brackenreed, Secretary