

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING

October 11, 2013

2:30 p.m. – Room F210

MEMBERS PRESENT:

M. DeGagné (Chair), H. d'Entremont, A-B Graff, C. Richardson, A. Robinson,  
R. Vanderlee, L. Carter

A. Armenakyan, J. Barker, G. Brown, A. Page

A. Ackerman, D. Borman, R. Breton, A. Burk, N. Colborne, J. Dech, M. Jha,  
A. Karashev, U. Kundra, McCann, F. Noël, T. Parkes, S. Renshaw, T. Smith,  
D. Tabachnick, A. Weeks, S. Winters, H. Zhu

L. Ashworth, G. Black, B. Bruner, K. Eyre, B. Hatt (Speaker), M. Kariuki,  
J. McAuliffe, T. Ryan, J. Scott, T. Sibbald, A. Steele

M. McCabe (Brantford), R. Vernescu (Bracebridge)

C. Murton-Stoehr, L. Rossi

J. Zimbalatti

Y. Benoit, K. Fitzsimmons, C. Grist

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

N. Black, M. Tuncali

T. Horton, M-A Parr

C. Hachkowski

S. Feretycki

G. DuCharme

The minutes of the Senate meeting of September 13, 2013 were adopted.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A request for a response from the question at the September 2013 Senate meeting regarding the appointment of the Associate Vice-President Academic was raised. Senator d'Entremont responded by indicating that the appointment is for a five-year term and is not covered under the Board of Governors senior academic appointment policy. There was extensive discussion that followed with the suggestion that a motion be made to the Board of Governors to modify the policy.

MOTION 1: Moved by S. Renshaw, seconded by G. McCann that Senate recommend to the Board of Governors a revision to Policy 3.1.2012.B, the Senior Academic Appointment Policy, to include all senior academic administrative appointments, regardless of title, from the level of Associate Dean.

CARRIED

The VPAR commented that the motion will not be applied retroactively.

### READING AND DISPOSING OF COMMUNICATIONS

There was a question regarding the VPAR's written response about the academic skills centre. The concern was raised that in June 2012, Senate approved its concept. It is now October 2013, and there is still no centre that is run by the academic side of the university. This is critical because the university tries to promote itself as a first generation university. The VPAR indicated he has tried to locate the assurances that were given, but has not been able to find it. There was also discussion as to whether this centre should be academic versus administrative and whether Senate can direct the VPAR's office to move forward. The VPAR noted that Senate cannot make budgetary decisions. The issue appears that resources have been committed, but not where Senate wanted them to be assigned. A consensus was reached that the Teaching and Learning Committee conduct an assessment of what has been done to date by the Office of Student Development and Services and its Essay Writing Skills Centre and the following motion was passed.

MOTION 2: Moved by C. Murton-Stoehr, seconded by D. Borman that the Teaching and Learning Committee of Senate make an inventory of staff hours dedicated to providing essay writing assistance to students.  
CARRIED

### QUESTION PERIOD

The Dean of Applied and Professional Studies asked the question if Senate passed a motion, how does Senate know if the motion will be carried forward. A supplemental question was asked if a recommendation is made to a senior administrator, how Senate can be made aware if the recommendation is being acted upon. A suggestion was made that this could be something the Bylaws and Elections Subcommittee to review.

There was a question regarding the campus shop and its practice of under-ordering textbooks. In the past, Senate had been advised that there was a review process and such issues would be examined in that forum. Senator Breton asked if there is a review process for the new campus shop and who sits on that review committee. He also asked if it is possible for students and faculty to have input in the review process. The Assistant Vice-President Students, Casey Phillips, indicated that in the past, concerns were sent to the Vice-President Operations and the results were relayed back to the individual concerned. It was suggested that Mr. Phillips propose some type of committee be put into place and report back to Senate in November.

A request was made for an update on the 4<sup>th</sup> CRC Tier II process. The VPAR indicated that the review committee has met and reviewed the proposals and had made a recommendation to allocate the CRC to the Department of Sociology. Senior administration has accepted that recommendation. Work must still be done to refine the actual proposal and a request be sent out for candidates. The theme of the CRC is "Life Course Transitions in Northern Rural Communities."

A final question was brought forward asking about the transparency of the proposal to the MTCU Innovation and Productivity fund. Faculty were asked for proposals but there has been no feedback to senate on what was sent to the Ministry. Senate was reminded that the Ministry stated it would favour proposals that lead to program prioritization and course re-design. The VPAR indicated that the submitted proposal would be added to the VPAR website.

### REPORTS of STANDING COMMITTEES and FACULTY or UNIVERSITY COUNCILS

#### Senate Executive Committee

MOTION 3: Moved by M. DeGagné, seconded by A-B Graff that the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated October 3, 2013 be received.  
CARRIED

**Planning and Priorities Committee**

MOTION 4: Moved by M. DeGagné, seconded by A-B Graff that the Report of the Planning and Priorities Committee dated September 20, 2013 be received.  
CARRIED

**AMENDMENT of BY-LAWS**

MOTION 5: Moved by D. Tabachnick, seconded by S. Winters that Article 2.1 of the Senate Bylaws be amended with the elimination of the ex-officio position of the Director of the Centre for Flexible Teaching and Learning.

MOTION 6: Moved by A. Weeks, seconded by D. Borman that MOTION 5 be referred back to the Bylaws and Elections Subcommittee for further review.  
CARRIED

MOTION 7: Moved by D. Tabachnick, seconded by S. Winters that Article 9.1(1)(a) be amended with the addition of the Vice-President Academic and Research (non-voting).  
CARRIED

MOTION 8: Moved by D. Tabachnick, seconded by R. Breton that Senate approve the addition of Article 9.3.3 Undergraduate Research Conference Subcommittee to the Senate bylaws at outlined below:

Article 9.3.3 Undergraduate Research Conference Subcommittee (URCS)

(a) *Ex Officio* Members:

- (i) the VPAR or designate
- (ii) the Dean, or designate, of each Faculty;

(b) Members Elected by Faculty Council

- (i) Two (2) faculty Senators or non-Senators from each Faculty one of whom shall be elected by the Committee to serve as Chair and one to serve as Vice-Chair;
- (ii) one (1) faculty Senator or non-Senator to serve as Poster coordinator;
- (iii) one (1) faculty Senator or non-Senator, preferably from Fine Arts, to serve as Fine Arts coordinator;
- (iv) one (1) student representative.

(c) Terms of Reference:

- (i) Secure the dates for the Undergraduate Research Conference;
- (ii) Establish the themes, if any;
- (iii) Communicate to all Nipissing University faculty;
- (iv) Establish linkages to other universities;
- (v) In collaboration with the VPAR office, secure a budget for the conference;
- (vi) In collaboration with Marketing, Communications and Development, ensure that the event is publicized; and
- (vii) Ensure the logistical support for the conference

DEFEATED

- **Notice of Motion (regarding any vacancies in the designated constituency groups)**

(This item was inadvertently omitted from the September 2013 Senate agenda. It was the fourth motion of the Bylaws and Elections Subcommittee Report dated August 22, 2013 and may be found on page 58 of the September 2013 Senate agenda.)

- If any election or acclamation results in vacancies on any of the designated constituencies, these vacancies will be filled in turn by the Faculty of Arts and Science, then the Schulich School of Education and then the Faculty of Applied and Professional Studies.

**ELECTIONS**

Elect one Senator to serve as COU Academic Colleague for a three year term commencing July 1, 2013.

**ACCLAIMED:**            G. McCann

**ADJOURNMENT (quorum lost)**

Senate was adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

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M. DeGagné (Chair)

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C. Jenkins (Senate Secretary)