

Nipissing University
Minutes of the Academic Senate Meeting
April 21, 2017
2:30 p.m. – Room F210

MEMBERS PRESENT:

M. DeGagné (Chair), H. d'Entremont, C. Sutton, C. Richardson,
R. Vanderlee

A. Armenakyan, L. Chen, R. Vernescu

S. Arnocky, R. Breton, A. Burke, R. Gendron, A. Karassev, N.
Kozuskanich, G. McCann, C. McFarlane, P. Nosko, K. Srigley,
S. Srigley, D. Tabachnick, D. Walters, A. Weeks

L. Frost, B. Hatt, D. Hay, T. Horton, D. Jarvis, M. Parr, J. Scott,
G. Sharpe

C. Cho

O. Pokorny, L. Rossi

N. Allaire

T. Curry

S. Feretycki

J. Andrews, J. Dempster, S. Lamorea

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

J. McAuliffe, M. Tuncali, J. Graham, N. Black

K. McCullough

J. Dech, M. Owens, T. Parkes, G. Phillips, T. Vassilev

W. Richardson, G. Rickwood, T. Sibbald

K. Barnes

M. Hawco, D. Ratcliffe, C. Tremblay

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA OF THE SENATE MEETING OF: April 21, 2017

MOTION 1: Moved by G. McCann, seconded by C. McFarlane that the agenda of the Senate meeting of April 21, 2017 be approved.
CARRIED

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SENATE MEETING OF: March 10, 2017

MOTION 2: Moved by R. Gendron, seconded by C. McFarlane that the minutes of the Senate meeting of March 10, 2017 be adopted.
CARRIED

QUESTION PERIOD

A request was made for follow-up on the status of the on-line student opinion surveys. The Senate Secretary will forward a request for response to the Chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee.

The Provost responded to a question regarding the status of the Strategic Enrollment Plan. He advised that PPC forwarded a motion some time ago requesting that Senate approve that PPC's mandate be extended to include oversight of a Strategic Enrollment Management Plan. The motion was defeated. The Speaker advised that the Senate minutes would be reviewed and this item will be addressed further at the next Senate meeting.

A concern was raised regarding the use of university bulletin boards. Many of the bulletin boards have notices advising that they are for department use only. The VP Finance & Administration advised that some boards are reserved for departmental use only, but she would check with facilities.

A question was asked regarding whether the University is moving away from WebAdvisor. The VP Finance & Administration advised that she would look into this and respond at the next Senate meeting.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND FACULTY OR UNIVERSITY COUNCILS

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MOTION 3: Moved by M. DeGagné, seconded by A. Weeks that Senate receive the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated April 13, 2017.
CARRIED

PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE

MOTION 4: Moved by H. d'Entremont, seconded by K. Srigley that the Report of the Planning and Priorities Committee dated March 24, 2017, be received.
CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

Len Gamache provided a presentation on the scope of our funding priorities. He thanked the faculty, alumni, staff, Board and Senate for providing a great deal of input. Determining priorities is a challenging task. He advised that a motion of endorsement that Senate supports the fundraising campaign would be welcome.

MOTION 5: Moved by G. McCann, seconded by A. Weeks that Senate endorses and supports the fundraising campaign.
CARRIED

AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

MOTION 6: Moved by D. Tabachnick, seconded by A. Weeks that Article 10.0 General Council Provisions of the Senate By-Laws be amended as outlined below:

10.0 General Council Provisions

(a) In addition to the Senate standing and ad hoc committees/subcommittees as outlined in Articles 8 and 9, the following councils shall be recognized as part of the academic decision-making structure of the University:

(i) the Faculty Council for each Faculty;

- (ii) the Research Council; and
- (iii) the Graduate Studies Council
- (b) Each Faculty Council in (a)(i) shall be authorized to draft its own constitution, committee structure, terms of reference and procedures, except where Senate delegates its academic authority in a specific area to the Faculty Councils but retains the right to stipulate that all Faculty Councils follow consistent procedures for rendering decisions and reporting to Senate.

CARRIED

MOTION 7: Moved by D. Tabachnick, seconded by C. McFarlane that Article 11.0 Senate Representatives on the Board of Governors of the Senate By-Laws be amended as outlined below:

- 11.0 Senate Representatives on the Board of Governors
- (a) In accordance with the Nipissing University Act, there shall be two (2) representatives on the Board of Governors elected by Senate from among its faculty Senators. (Two additional Board representatives shall be elected by the faculty-at-large from among the faculty members who are non-Senators.)
 - (b) The normal term of office for Senate representatives on the Board shall be three (3) years.
 - (c) Elections for Senate representatives on the Board shall normally be held at the same time as elections for Senate standing committees/subcommittees.
 - (d) Senate representatives on the Board shall endeavour to represent the majority opinion of Senate in any Board discussion pertaining to Senate matters.
 - (e) Senate representatives on the Board shall provide a written or oral report to Senate following each Board meeting. Specifically, the representatives shall be responsible for ensuring that Senate is kept informed of:
 - (i) the outcome of all Senate recommendations conveyed to the Board; and
 - (ii) any Board matters affecting or of interest to Senate, subject to reporting restrictions in the By-Laws of the Board.
 - (f) Senate representatives on the Board shall have such other responsibilities as may be assigned from time to time by the Senate or the Board.

CARRIED

MOTION 8: Moved by D. Tabachnick, seconded by J. Dempster that Article 12.1 Attendance Expectations of the Senate By-Laws be amended as outlined below:

- 12.1 Attendance Expectations
- (a) It is understood that there are legitimate reasons why Senators may miss a regular or special Senate meeting from time to time. Nevertheless, all Senators shall be expected to attend meetings whenever reasonably possible.
 - (b) Senators who are unable to attend a regular or special Senate meeting for legitimate reasons shall be expected to notify the Senate Secretary in writing.
 - (c) Elected Senators who miss three (3) regular Senate meetings in any given Senate year shall be deemed to have forfeited their position.
 - (d) Any disagreement regarding the legitimacy of reasons given for absence from Senate shall be adjudicated by the Senate Executive Committee.

CARRIED

MOTION 9: Moved by D. Tabachnick, seconded by K. Srigley that Article 13.0 Vacant Senate Positions of the Senate By-Laws be amended as outlined below:

- 13.0 Vacant Senate Positions
- (a) In this Article:

- (i) *ex officio* Senators shall be those identified in 2.1;
 - (ii) constituent Senators shall be those identified in 2.2(a)(i) and 2.3; and
 - (iii) elected Senators shall be those identified in 2.2(a)(ii), 2.2(a)(iii) and 2.4.
 - (b) Senate positions may become vacant before the completion of their normal terms of office for a variety of reasons, including:
 - (i) the resignation of an elected or constituent Senator with advance notice, effective at the end of a particular Senate year;
 - (ii) the resignation of an elected or constituent Senator without advance notice, effective immediately;
 - (iii) the forfeiture of an elected Senator's position for any reason; or
 - (iv) the inability of any Senator to continue to serve on Senate, due to other unforeseen circumstances.
 - (c) Resignations from Senate positions shall be submitted in writing to the Chair of Senate.
 - (d) A vacancy in any *ex officio* Senate position shall remain vacant until the position in question is filled by University appointment (including an interim or acting appointment).
 - (e) A vacancy in any constituent Senate position shall be filled by the respective constituent body, in accordance with the body's approved procedures.
 - (f) A vacancy in any elected Senate position shall be filled:
 - (i) as part of the next annual election cycle, for a vacancy due to (b)(i);
 - (ii) by holding a by-election within thirty (30) days, in the case of a vacancy due to (b)(ii), (b)(iii) or (b)(iv), where there is deemed to be sufficient time remaining in the current Senate year to make such a by-election practical; or
 - (g) The By-Laws & Elections Subcommittee shall be responsible for initiating and overseeing any arrangements necessary to ensure that Senate vacancies are appropriately filled, in accordance with (d) – (f).
- CARRIED

ELECTIONS

- Elect one (1) Senator to serve on the Board of Governors for a two-year (2) term.
R. Gendron – ACCLAIMED
- Elect one (1) Senator to serve on the Board of Governors for a three-year (3) term.
B. Hatt - ACCLAIMED
- Elect one (1) tenured faculty member from any faculty to serve on the search committee for the Provost and Vice-President, Academic and Research.
A. Burk - ACCLAIMED
- Senator Chen advised that she would be unable to serve on the Chancellor's and CASBU Teaching Award selection committees as she will be out of the country for the month of May. A request was made for a replacement from the Faculty of Applied and Professional Studies. Senator Armenakyan volunteered to replace Senator Chen on both selection committees.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The President noted that a number of questions raised during question period required answers that were not available on hand. He requested that questions be forwarded to the Senate Secretary in advance so that responses can be provided. He acknowledged recent remarks made in the legislature by MPP, Vic Fedeli, highlighting the university's excellent key performance indicators, graduate employment rate, and student satisfaction survey. The President was pleased to advise that Senator McCann was recently appointed to the Executive Committee of the COU. He congratulated the Women's Hockey team for

their second place finish in the McCaw Cup Finals, the Nursing students on the success of the Nursing games held at NU, the 1millionth visitor to the Harris Learning Library and the Dave Marshall Student Leadership Award recipients. He also advised of the final Diibaadan Dinner that was held on March 22, the Bachelor of Fine Arts Graduate Exhibition held at the WKP Kennedy Gallery, the FIRST Robotics Competition, the Student Call Campaign and the 11 students who visited with Jon Cutsey at FDM4. The President also wish to acknowledge the tremendous amount of work that has been taking place on the Indigenization of NU.

The Provost advised that he was finally able to announce that Dr. Justin Carré has received a provincial Early Research Award valued at \$150,000 over five years. He is hopeful that the Tri-Agency research grants will be available to be announced at the May Senate meeting. He also advised that \$2.2 million in funding had been received from the government. This money will be used to reduce the deficit.

The Vice-President Finance and Administration advised that the VP's had submitted a funding request to the Ministry in support of our ongoing efforts to achieve sustainability through the recommendations of the PWC Report. She was pleased to announce that Nipissing has been awarded \$2.5 million for 2017/18 to continue that work. A very preliminary budget has been presented for 2017/18. We are projecting a deficit of approx. \$3.5-\$4 million which is lower than last year's projected deficit of \$4.7 million. The VPFA advised that anyone interested in attending the next Audit and Finance meeting to please contact Cheryl Zimba or Ursula Boyer. She also advised that an RFP for space planning has gone out. The report will be dovetailed with the Technology and Infrastructure Committee report, and will provide guidance for upcoming space and technology upgrades.

Senator Andrews welcomed new Arts & Science Senator Kaitlyn Walker to Senate. He advised that NUSU has been focused on the transition of the new NUSU Executive. Leadership will be turned over effective May 1. A joint executive retreat was recently held as well as a meeting with the architects. Senator Andrews and Senator Dempster thanked Senate for the support received this past year and expressed their best wishes to see that the good work accomplished this past year continues. On behalf of Senate, the Speaker thanked Senator Andrews, Senator Dempster and all of the NUSU Executive and wished them all the best in their chosen professions.

ADJOURNMENT

Senate was adjourned at: 3:35 p.m.

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M. DeGagné (Chair)

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S. Landriault (Senate Recording Secretary)