

Nipissing University
Minutes of the Academic Senate Meeting

November 9, 2018

2:30 p.m. – Room F210

MEMBERS PRESENT:

M. DeGagné (Chair), A. Vainio-Mattila, J. McAuliffe, J. Nadeau, P. Radia, C. Richardson, D. Iafrate

L. Chen, D. Lafrance Horning, M. Sullivan

A. Burk, N. Colborne, S. Connor, R. Gendron, A. Hatef, B. Kelly, L. Kruk, E. Mattson, G. McCann, S. Renshaw, K. Srigley, D. Tabachnick, H. Teixeira, T. Vassilev, H. Zhu

J. Allison, B. Hatt, D. Hay, T. Horton, C. Peltier, G. Raymer, C. Ricci, A. Schinkel-Ivy, G. Sharpe

J. Nighbor

D. Goulard, H. Mackie, K. Kearney

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

C. Sutton, N. Black

M. Litalien, L. Manankil-Rankin, K. McCullough, P. Millar, P. Ravi

E. Dokis, S. Srigley

C. Hachkowski, D. Jarvis

O. Pokorny

L. Lambert

T. Curry, B. Ray

A. Wood, X. Winter, N. MacKenzie

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA OF THE SENATE MEETING OF: November 9, 2018

MOTION 1: Moved by K. Srigley, seconded by A. Burk that the agenda of the Senate meeting of November 9, 2018 be approved.

CARRIED

The Speaker requested that the amended Territorial Acknowledgement listed below, as approved by NUICE and listed under New Business, be moved to the start of the Agenda.

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT for NIPISSING UNIVERSITY SENATE

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 Anishnabek. We respect and are grateful to hold this event on these lands with all our relatives.

Accepted and approved by NUACE (now, NUICE) 30 October 2018.

This important acknowledgement shall be read out prior to the start of Senate meetings and is encouraged to be adopted for use by other departments. The Senate Secretary will forward the acknowledgement to the Board Secretary and NUSU.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SENATE MEETING OF: October 19, 2018

MOTION 2: Moved by A. Burk, seconded by S. Renshaw that the minutes of the Senate meeting of October 19, 2018 be adopted with revisions.
CARRIED

READING AND DISPOSING OF COMMUNICATIONS

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) requires every publicly-assisted college and university to develop and publicly post its own free speech policy by January 1, 2019. The policy must meet a minimum standard specified by the government. The Joint Committee on Governance was asked to form this policy for review prior to January 1, 2019. As the Joint Committee on Governance did not have quorum at its last meeting, a draft policy was sent out electronically and approved but no motion was passed. A request was made for guidance from Senate on how to proceed.

The Chair advised that the issue of Freedom of Expression was entrusted to the Board and Senate. As no official motion was received from the Joint Committee on Governance to authorize approval, it was suggested that further work take place through the Joint Committee so that the policy can be circulated through the Board and Senate. Although there is a time constraint, there is still the opportunity to discuss whether to adopt a generic statement that other universities have adopted and then replace it with a unique NU policy, or to continue on with the work that has been done. It was advised that the Joint Committee has a meeting scheduled on December 4. The Speaker suggested that the Joint Committee move forward with the policy, and if necessary to meet the deadline, a generic statement could be adopted and replaced with a NU policy at a later date.

On behalf of Senate, Senator McCann wished to publicly and explicitly thank the support and administrative staff for making the student experience at Nipissing one that is recognized nationally and allows students to feel at home and welcome. Nipissing University was once again recognized as # 1 in the annual Maclean's University rankings for our high level of student satisfaction and leadership in the areas of student services, residence living, mental health services, and the promotion Indigenous visibility.

REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

The President began his report by congratulating NUSU on the new Student Centre groundbreaking ceremony. This marks the beginning of an 85-week schedule. The new Student Centre, which has been financed with student money, is expected to open in 2020. The President was pleased to attend the recent Scholar Practitioner Program (SPP) graduation ceremony hosted by the Michener Institute in Toronto.

The President also recently attended the Alumni Board Retreat and General meeting, as well as Anishnabek Treaty Week events. He congratulated and thanked the recipients that received awards for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 & 45 years of service at the recent Annual Staff Awards Ceremony.

The Provost advised that she had recently attended the annual National Vice-Presidents Academic Council (NATVAC) meeting in Montreal. One of the topics of discussion was freedom of speech. It was noted that many universities refer to freedom of expression which is especially important to universities with Fine Arts programs. Also of interest was a speech given by a Rector from the Netherlands on why universities should change. Discussion also included local trends, competition for talent, personalized education, the unbundling of the degree, and social impact. She advised that the architect has provided information on the maximum occupancy of our labs. Conversations will be held with faculty, Chairs and Deans to discuss the optimal load. The Provost advised that on January 11, 2019, Academica will be on campus and a Town Hall meeting will be held. Academica is preparing surveys which will assist with recruitment efforts.

The Alumni Advisory Board President, Jade Nighbor, reminded that there is still time to recognize your friends and colleagues as the Alumni Award nominations are still open. She thanked those who have submitted nominations so far and advised that assistance in completing nomination forms is available at alumni@nipissingu.ca. The Board Retreat was successful and she thanked everyone for taking part and providing much needed information. The Retreat brought forth new ideas for next year's Homecoming and suggestions on how to reach out to the alumni body in a more efficient manner. Members also discussed several ideas for major gifts and events that the alumni team can facilitate in order to engage alumni and support students. These ideas are being assessed for feasibility, value, and lasting impact upon past and future graduates. Items will be put to a vote in 2019 with the goal of supporting as many sustainable initiatives as possible. The next Alumni Board meeting will be held in January.

The NUSU Board of Directors thanked the President for attending the Board of Directors training session and for providing valuable information, guidance, and experience to the Directors-at-Large and the Executive Committee. NUSU recently held their Annual General Meeting and are actively updating their policies and structures and will update the Board and Senate on the changes. Thank you to all that attended the New Student Centre Groundbreaking Ceremony held earlier today. The Good Neighbour meetings have continued in the hopes that students are positively impacting the North Bay area. Great feedback has been received about the students and clubs giving back to the community through fundraising, clean ups and activities. The Break the Ice on Mental Health event will be held on November 23 at Memorial Gardens. This event is held in conjunction with the Lakers Athletics, NU Listens, the CMHA, and Sport Marketing to bring awareness to mental health while also displaying our talented hockey teams. NUSU representatives will represent Nipissing University by laying wreaths at the Remembrance Day ceremony at Memorial Gardens. In collaboration with the Nipissing Lakers Athletics, NUSU will participate again this year in the Movember campaign. Each week a different aspect of the Movember campaign will be presented, including: suicide prevention, testicular cancer, mental health and prostate cancer.

The Indigenization Steering Committee met for their first meeting of this academic year on October 25. At this meeting, a new, proposed structure was presented which involves smaller working groups based on the following five overall goals of Indigenization: 1) Student Success for Indigenous Learners; 2) Teaching and Learning; 3) Community Engagement; 4) Human Resources, and 5) Governance, Vision Statements and Strategic Plans. This proposal will be brought to the full Committee for approval.

QUESTION PERIOD

Regarding the Admission Policy for proof of proficiency in English for Undergraduate, Graduate and Education, a question was raised as to why NU TOEFL scores are still high, especially at the Graduate level. The Registrar advised that the scores at all Ontario universities were reviewed and because we don't currently provide the supports that other universities provide for international students, it was decided that the mode score be used instead of the median or mean score. This score is in-line with other Ontario universities. In response to a question raised as to whether there is a plan in place to figure out what supports are required, the Provost advised that discussions have been held with the Office of the Registrar and plans have been submitted to Academic Planning. Measured steps have been taken in international recruitment and partnerships are being established with agencies that recruit for other universities. The Provost will be travelling to India in January. Once we have a clearer idea of the numbers, we will figure out the investment that will be required to build the services that will allow us to put language support structures in place. It was also noted that supports that apply to international students also apply to Aboriginal students, as English is also their second language.

The Faculty Senate representative on the Board of Governors advised that a new policy on the hiring of senior academic administrators was passed at the November 8, 2018, Board of Governors' meeting. The President responded by clarifying that revisions were made to the existing Board policy and the changes were properly vetted by the Board. As we have both Board and Senate policies, it is necessary to ensure that they don't conflict. When a policy changes, communication between the Board and Senate is important for harmonization purposes. Concerns were expressed that recommendations 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5 of the Report of the Special Governance Commission (SGC) were not followed. A request was made that Senators review these recommendations. A request was also made to record in the Minutes, some Senators discontent that recommendations 3.3, 3.4 & 3.5 were not acknowledged to the Board. The President advised that the Board is well aware of the recommendations. Concerns were expressed that notification of the November 8, 2018 Board of Governors meeting and the change of location were not announced to the NU community as normal due to the hiatus of the NU News. The President advised that notice of the Board meeting and the change of location was provided to Board members in a timely way according to Board policy.

In response to a question asked whether an external advertising campaign is being seriously looked at, the Provost advised that all aspects of recruitment are being considered. The new Director of External Relations and the Registrar will also be involved in the Strategic Plan framework.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND FACULTY OR UNIVERSITY COUNCILS

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MOTION 3: Moved by M. DeGagné, seconded by G. McCann that Senate receive the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated November 1, 2018.
CARRIED

ACADEMIC QUALITY ASSURANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

MOTION 4: Moved by A. Vainio-Mattila, seconded by K. Srigley that the Report of the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee dated October 26, 2018, be received.
CARRIED

GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

- MOTION 5: Moved by J. McAuliffe, seconded by C. Richardson that the report of the Graduate Studies Committee dated October 16, 2018 be received.
CARRIED
- MOTION 6: Moved by J. McAuliffe, seconded by D. Goulard that Senate approves that the average for MSc Kinesiology be lowered to the equivalent of a B, or 70%, in line with the normal minimum admission average for Graduate Studies at Nipissing University.
CARRIED
- MOTION 7: Moved by J. McAuliffe, seconded by C. Richardson that Senate approves the amended motion that KINE 5006: Research Methods in Kinesiology is removed as a prerequisite for KINE 5007: Statistics in Kinesiology.
That KINE 5006: Research Methods in Kinesiology is removed as a prerequisite for 5453: Research Thesis
That KINE 5007: Statistics in Kinesiology is removed as a prerequisite for 5453: Research Thesis
That KINE 5206: Integrative Seminar in Kinesiology is removed as a prerequisite for KINE 5453: Research Thesis.
CARRIED

AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

- MOTION 8: Moved by N. Colborne, seconded by H. Mackie that Senate approve that Article 9.3.1 be amended as outlined below:

Article 9.3.1

- 9.3.1 Undergraduate Standing & Petitions Subcommittee (S&P)
- (a) *Ex Officio* Members:
 - (i) the Registrar, or designate (Chair); and
 - (ii) one (1) Academic Dean, or designate.
 - (b) Members Elected by Faculty Council:
 - (i) one (1) faculty Senator or non-Senator from each Faculty. One of whom shall be elected by the Committee to serve as Vice-Chair to work collaboratively with the Chair to review all petitions and determine appropriate action; and
 - (ii) one (1) student representative from each Faculty.
 - (c) Terms of Reference:
 - (i) to periodically review the University's policies and criteria with respect to defining and assessing undergraduate academic standing, and make recommendations to the Undergraduate Studies Committee as necessary and appropriate, for conveyance to Senate;
 - (ii) to consider and rule on petitions by undergraduate students for exceptions to University academic regulations*;
 - (iii) where appropriate the Chair and Vice-Chair will exercise S & P's authority to act on their behalf, with the understanding that all such actions will be reported at the following S & P Subcommittee meeting;

- (iv) where it appears that undergraduate degree or program requirements or other academic regulations are giving rise to otherwise avoidable student petitions, to draw this to the attention of the Undergraduate Studies Committee or other individuals for further consideration and possible action;
- (v) to rule on the admissibility of candidates who fail to meet normal University admission requirements, but who, in the opinion of the Registrar, deserve special consideration; and
- (vi) to deal with such other matters as may be assigned from time to time by the Undergraduate Studies Committee or by Senate.

*decisions in (ii) are final and may not be appealed

CARRIED

- Notice of Motion that the Senate By-Laws document, dated August 2018, be amended as attached. (*changes in bold and strike through*)

ELECTIONS

The members required for the Research Council as per the Senate By-laws and considering outgoing membership from last year:

- Elect one (1) faculty member who represents the NSERC discipline for a two (2) year term
H. Zhu - ACCLAIMED
- Elect one (1) faculty member who represents the SSHRC discipline for a two (2) year term
R. Vernescu - ACCLAIMED
- Elect one (1) APS faculty member for a two (2) year term
J. Muterera - ACCLAIMED

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION 9: Moved by D. Iafrate, seconded by G. McCann that Senate approve the recommendation from the Office of the Registrar to revise the Admission policy for Proof of Proficiency in English for Undergraduate, Graduate and Education as outlined below:

UNDERGRADUATE

Current requirements:

TOEFL iBT – overall score of 86, with a minimum of 20 in each section, writing, listening, speaking and reading.

IELTS – overall score of 6.5, with a minimum score of 6.0 in reading, listening, writing and speaking

PTE – overall score of 55, with a minimum score of 55 writing, no minimum in reading, listening or speaking

Proposed requirements:

TOEFL iBT – overall score of 83, with a minimum score of 20 in Reading, Listening and Writing, and a minimum score of 22 in Speaking

IELTS – overall score of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.5 in reading, listening, speaking and writing.

PTE (Pearson Test of English) – overall score of 58 with 56 in each section speaking, writing, reading and listening.

GRADUATE

Current requirements:

TOEFL iBT – overall score of 100, with a minimum of 27 in writing and speaking. No minimum requirement in listening or reading.

IELTS – overall score of 7, with a minimum score of 6.5 in reading and listening and a minimum score of 7 in writing and speaking

PTE – overall score of 67, with a minimum score of 60 in reading, writing, listening and speaking

Proposed requirements:

TOEFL iBT – overall score of 93, with a minimum score of 20 in reading and listening and a minimum score of 22 in speaking and writing

IELTS – an overall score of 6.5, with a minimum of 6.5 in reading, listening and speaking and a minimum score of 6 in writing

PTE – an overall score of 63 with a minimum score of 60 in each section

EDUCATION

Current requirements:

TOEFL iBT – overall score of 100, with a minimum score of 27 in writing and speaking. No minimum requirement in listening or reading.

IELTS – overall score of 7, with a minimum score of 6.5 in reading and listening and a minimum score of 7 in writing and speaking.

PTE – overall score of 67, with a minimum score of 60 in reading, writing, listening and speaking.

Proposed requirements:

TOEFL iBT – overall score of 93, with a minimum score of 20 in reading and listening and a minimum score of 22 in speaking and writing

IELTS – an overall score of 6.5, with a minimum of 6.5 in reading, listening and speaking and a minimum score of 6 in writing

PTE – an overall score of 63 with a minimum score of 60 in each section

CARRIED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Speaker reminded that the next Senate meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 14, 2018. As quorum for the December meeting has been a problem in the past, please endeavor to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

Senate was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.



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M. DeGagné (Chair)



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S. Landriault (Senate Secretary)